



Thursday, March 31, 2016

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VE IVAN IS N INSPIRATION

Report by Andrew Turton

"WHERE there's hope there's life. Where there's life there's hope."

Those are the words of a brave cancer patient from Quarry Bank who is facing the future with a smile thanks

facing the future with a smile thanks to a fundraising drive.

Ivan Partridge has been hailed as an inspiration for his fundraising efforts in the wake of a devastating diagnosis. The 55-year-old was last year told he had a rare form of melanoma. In recent days he has been given a bed at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice where he continues to have treatment.

Mr Partridge takes heart from the support of family and friends as he focuses on helping the hospice that is helping him. His campaign has

tamily and friends as ne focuses on neiping the hospice that is helping him. His campaign has raised almost £6,000 so far with Mr Partridge hoping to push the total past £10,000.

"It has given me something to focus on," said Mr Partridge, of Patina Close.

on," said Mr Partridge, of Patina Close.

His wife Yvonne has giving constant support ever since he first started feeling unwell in January 2015.

Mr Partridge was taken for tests after feeling tired and having a blocked nose.

Wan and Yvonne

WRI scan came the news that he had nasal polyps and he then had his first operation to polyps and he then had his first operation to remove them.

Strong

Doctors informed the couple that Ivan had a rare strain of melanoma and would have to undergo major facial surgery. Doctors planned to remove part of his upper jaw and palate, left eye and part of his cheek in the procedure.

Yvonne, also 55, said: "He is quite a strong character." The couple, who have been together for 12 years, had been planning to get married this year in Greece but after his diagnosis decided to bring forward their wedding to Dudley Register Office with reception at Stourbridge Rugby Club. Rugby Club.

Rugby Club.

Surgeons rebuilt Ivan's face using bone and muscle from his hip but in November the cancer had returned.

Mr Partridge decided to embark a fundraising drive. The couple collected around £1,900 in donations for the hospice from guests at their wedding in August instead of presents. He organised a charity night at The Laurels club in Colley Gate.

Mr Partridge, managing director at Motovario, Droitwich, says his colleagues have been supportive. He also thanked his daughter Rebecca, 23, and grandson Daniyal, step-chil-

Rebecca, 23, and grandson Daniyal, step-children Emma, 28, her partner Michael, Aaron 23, and Emma's children Harley and Hudson.

MUSIC FANS CAN TAKE IT CHEESY WITH OLD HITS



Nicki Burrows, Brendon McKeown, James Challis, Kate Green and Dale Pickin are ready for nostalgia at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

PEOPLE can dust off their dancing shoes with plans revealed to create a new club night to boost the Black Country's music scene. Brierley Hill Civic Hall will host a monthly

big night out with the emphasis on nostalgia in a bid to bring crowds flocking to the venue,

in a bid to bring crowds flocking to the venue, which has undergone a revamp.

Dudley Council transferred the day-to-day management of the hall, which attracts thousands of people every year, to the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) last year. Now the group wants to bolster the number of events held.

The hall, in Bank Street, will hold the monthly music events each Friday starting from tomorrow, costing £5 on the door.

Organisers say the Big Cheesy Nights Out will get the iconic building rocking to the sounds of the 1970s, 80s and 90s with a few

sounds of the 1970s, 80s and 90s with a few more recent chart hits too.

The bar has recently been refurbished fol-lowing the voluntary group's takeover of the hall in the town centre.

Dudley CVS chief officer, Andy Gray, said. "The revenue from commercial events at Brierley Hill Civic Hall is being re-invested

into the voluntary sector. This enables us to offer the Civic Hall as a community building for community users. Our aim is to see Brierley Hill Civic Hall as a vibrant and accessible venue for all sorts of community activ ities, subsidised by income from commercial

events."
CVS officer Brendan McKeown added: "We are really looking forward to it. It is great to have a cheesy night out and we want to bring them back to the area. We have lined up some good DJs who know their stuff and it should make for a good night."

HOSPITAL

566 parking fines around Russells Hall

MORE than 550 parking fines have been issued on roads surrounding Russells Hall

issued on roads surrounding Russells Hall Hospital over the last year. Hundreds of drivers were caught out trying to dodge paying to park at the hospital, with the bulk of the fines being handed out along the A4101 High Street, Pensnett, which runs past the hospital.

A total of 566 parking tickets were handed out from April 1 last year to March 21 – more than 10 a week. Of those, 505 were slapped on windscreens on High Street with 42 along Pensnett Road.

ACCIDENT

Driver hurt when car hits bus stop

A DRIVER suffered a head injury when his car crashed into a bus stop near Russells Hall Hospital.

Russells Hall Hospital.

The accident happened close to the A&E department in High Street, Pensnett. Ambulance crews were flagged down on Saturday by a member of the public at about 2.55am Murray MacGregor, a spokesman for the ambulance service, said: "The occupant of the car, a man in his 20s, had suffered a potentially serious head injury."

PLANNING

Mosque move has been put on hold

MUSLIM leaders have put controversial plans for a new mosque and community centre in Dudley on hold, saying 'we need to go back to the drawing board'.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) said it needs to re-think its vision after a court ruling meant it was forced to hand back land previously earmarked for the development.

Spokesman Amjid Raza said DMA had stopped work on the plan for a new mosque since the Court of Appeal decision in November. Confirming the scheme was now on hold, he added: "We have not had any discussions about other sites. We are not going to do anything at the moment."

INSIDE

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Prison for robber who terrified child



A ROBLER will smashed his way into a Sedgley family home through a girl's bedroom window as she lay sleeping has been jailed. A West Midlands Police officer said

Ben Timmins left the three-year-old girl 'traumatised' after he used a house brick to smash his way through her

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the girl's parents were confronted by the raider after rushing to their child's bedroom after hearing a loud crash at 4am on January 29.

The thug then threatened to hurt the

parents to pressure them into handing over their car keys.

Timmins, from Sudeley Gardens, Gornal, was sentenced to six years and two months in prison after pleading guilty to robbery.

The unemployed 26-year-old threatened to harm the family in front of the child if they didn't hand over the keys to their family car. He then threw the brick at the man, causing a minor injury, before climbing back through the window and driving off in their £5,000 car.

A short time later the vehicle was

doned but forensic inquiries led officers to identifying Timmins as the driver. He was arrested and charged after the family picked him out in an identity

After sentencing, Detective Consta-Anter sentencing, Detective Consta-ble Neil Payton, from Brierley Hill Po-lice Station, said: "This was a terrifying experience for the family. Timmins en-tered the family home through a child's bedroom window in the early hours of the morning. He then threatened her parents in front of the traumatised child."

POLICE investigated more than 200 reports of hate crime near mosques in one year with one community leader in Dudley saying Muslim women wearing hijabs (veils) are being targeted. More than 2,000 separate incidents have been reported over the last 15 years with the numbers hitting a high in 2015. Figures released through a Freedom of Information request revealed police were called out to mosques and surrounding

Concern as

in mosque

hate crimes

areas are up

areas 235 times last year alone.

There were 197 separate call-outs two years ago, revealing an upward trend in such attacks, showing a steady rise since 2012.

Pairs

Amjid Raza, spokesman for Dudley Muslim Association, said: "We have no-ticed a rise in such crimes during the last five or six years. It is having an impact on the Muslim community, especially

on the Muslim community, especially when there are major terrorist attacks.

"Muslim women wearing hijabs are particularly targeted and when something like the incident in Brussels happens we actively encourage the com-

mappens we actively encourage in community to walk round in pairs.

"We work very closely with the police and more people are willing to actually report such hate crimes these days because they have grown in confidence. There are multiple factors for a rise in such crimes but we think more people are willing to come forward."

are willing to come forward."
Police Commissioner David Jamieson said: "The number of hate crimes i West Midlands is monitored closely The number of hate crimes in the

Driver is rescued from flood water

A MAN was rescued from his car on the main Wolverhampton to Kidderminster A449 road near Whittington Manor, Kinver, by firefighters from Brierley Hill after the Ford Mondeo cut out in eight inch deep water.

The rescue came as the Midlands and southern England were lashed by Storm Katie. There was torrential rain and even snow across parts of the Black Country on Easter Monday.

Crews from Dudley and Wombourne also pushed a VW Golf out of water after it got stuck in flood water a foot deep.

Planes were diverted and trains de-layed. Air passengers were particularly badly hit and several planes due to land at Gatwick had to be diverted to Bir-mingham due to severe winds.

On fitness trail for college anniversary

MORE than 50 children walked Halesowen College's brand new fitness trail

sowen College's brand new itness trail to mark its open day and the beginning of its 50th birthday celebrations. The children came together to walk, be pushed or carried for Sport Relief during a 1960s-themed celebration.

Rock Zombie nightclub told to tighten security

been forced to tighten security following a spate of violence – including a Christmas Day ma-

The owners of Rock Zombie have been warned they must comply with new safety measures, which have been laid down by police, or face losing their licence.

A doorman was struck with a machete in the early hours of Christmas Day as vio-lence flared outside the club in King Street. A group of men had been turned away

A group of men had been turned away from the rock venue as they appeared to be drunk and, unhappy about this, turned on door staff. A security worker was hit so hard with the machete that the weapon broke and it was only his body armour which saved him from serious injury.

There were also a number of incidents during February, including one where a man was left with serious injuries.

Alarmed

Police chiefs were so alarmed by events Fonce cineis were so alarmed by events at Rock Zombie that they ordered the premises licence be reviewed. Interim measures were put in place last month and now strict measures have been imposed which mean nobody will be allowed to enter after 1am. There must be at least six door staff on

duty at all times in future and customers will be searched amid concerns about weap-ons being brought into the club. A man was caught on CCTV removing a

A lian was caught on CVV reinoving a potato peeler from his bag having just left the club, Dudley Council's licensing committee was told.

Duncan Craig, a barrister representing West Midlands Police, said there had been a serious incident on December 25 and four

incidents on separate dates in February.

Mr Craig said police chiefs had been encouraged by a reduction in violence since interim measures were put in place.
Owners of Rock Zombie Kenny and

Mandy Jinks said they were concerned that not being allowed to let new customers in after 1am was hampering their business. But Mr Craig said: "One would hope they have come to recognise the merit of these conditions and will embrace them going forward."

forward."
Mr and Mrs Jinks declined to comment.

Warehouse plan mine concerns lifted



The Tesco Extra supermarket at Burnt Tree Island is now likely to get the green light for its online sales warehouse

OBJECTIONS to Tesco's plan for a dedicated warehouse for online sales in the Black Country because of concerns about it being built over a mine entrance have been lifted.

The DotCom centre would create 70 jobs and be used to deliver goods and groceries to shoppers' homes from Dudley's Burnt Tree Island supermarket fit its given the goahead at a meeting next week.

The scheme had been left hanging in the balance after the Coal

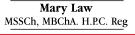
Authority raised concerns that part of the planned extension would be built over a recorded mine entry.

Since then the supermarket giant has provided details of a surgiant has provided details of a survey of the site. A report by Andy Jones from engineering consultant Fairhurst says the mine entry was 'not considered at risk of collapse' and had been 'treated' in 1991 and 2010 to make it secure. He said the builds of a Consection would be building's foundations would be reinforced to further mitigate the potential risk of ground gas

James Smith, planning liaison of-ficer at The Coal Authority says he is now satisfied Tesco has demon-strated the site 'can be made safe and stable' for the development.

Dudley Council planning officers have recommended the project is approved by councillors on Monday. Planning officer Faisal Agha said approval was subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 legal agreement to provide a contribution of £12,720 to fund continued air cubil transfer. continued air quality monitoring.

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DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood has stepped down from his role as a coun-cillor ahead of May's local elections.

The Conservative MP, who secured his seat in the House of Commons last May, said it was always his intention to stand down from Dudley Council.

Mr Wood has served for two years as ward councillor for Pedmore and Stourbridge East on Dudley Council but says it has become 'increasingly difficult' to continue with the dual

Mr Wood, who has been dividing Mr Wood, who has been dividing his time between Dudley and London, said he intended to stand aside now to 'avoid the expense' of the council holding a separate by-election ahead of May's council poll.

In a letter to council chief executive Sarah Norman, Mr Wood said: "It has Sarah Norman, Mr Wood said: "It has been an enormous privilege to serve as a ward councillor for Pedmore and Stourbridge East for the past two years. However, since I was elected to Parliament last May, it has become

to ranament as way, it has become increasingly difficult to fulfil the important role of being a local councillor as effectively as I would like.

"Ahead of last year's General Election, I indicated my intention to stand down as a councillor this spring to coincide with the local elections on coincide with the local elections on May 5. By doing so I hoped to avoid the expense to the taxpayer of hold-ing a stand-alone by-election, whilst allowing a replacement to be elected alongside the main set of local elec-tions where can focus or work within tions who can focus on work within the council and for the people of Ped-more and Stourbridge East."

UKIP councillor in fly Pride flag call

A UKIP councillor has urged the local authority to show its support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community by flying the Pride flag on May 17.

Sedgley Councillor Bill Etheridge, also a West Midlands Euro MP, has endorsed calls for an International Day against Homophobia. He gave Day against Homophobia. He gave his backing to Shaun Keasey, a UKIP candidate for Sedgley, who wants Dudley Council to fall into line with Wolverhampton and Birmingham, both of which display the distinctive rainbow colours Pride flag on May 17.

Mr Keasey said: "Even in 2016 the level of homophobia around the world is unacceptable. We must show that being gay is totally normal and hatred has no place in our towns."

Go-ahead given to three flats at pub

A PUB in Coseley is to be turned into flats after plans were approved by councillors. Three flats are to be cre-ated at the Red Cow in Edge Street. The plans have been approved by Dudley Council.

Woman locked up for having sex on a bus



Samantha Truslove - abusive

A WOMAN who was banned from bus driving through Cradley Heath ASBO banning her from Sandwell bor-Sandwell was caught having sex on a bus in full view of young children, a

Samantha Truslove was so excited her boyfriend had been released from prison that she couldn't even wait until the end of the bus ride home before getting intimate with him, Dudley Magis-

ing intimate with film, budgey Magistrates Court was told.

Truslove, of Wolverhampton Street, budley, had met up with Peter Walker on January 6 after he was released from prison, the court was told. They were on the back seat of a single-decker

when they were caught in the act, in full view of three schoolchildren.

Ms Linda Gudgeon, prosecuting, told the court: "It was school-leaving time and two eight-year-old boys and a nine-year-old girl had to have their eyes averted."

Truslove was jailed for 28 weeks in Irusiove was jained for 28 weeks in her absence after being removed from the dock for shouting at district judge Graham Wilkinson. She had pleaded guilty to outraging public decency and breaching an ASBO.

The 26-year-old had been given an

ough in 2013 and was charged with breaching that order after being drunk and abusive towards police. Truslove had breached the terms of the ASBO several times since it was imposed, the court was told.

She and a former partner had been turfed out of Blackheath after making their neighbours' lives hell with their drunken behaviour.

Raising

a glass

to pub of

the year

has been crowned this year's

top pub by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) for the Dudley and South Stafford-

been in the running for the

last four or five years, so it is nice to get it.

"It was a bit of a shock to

shire region.

CHEERS! Workers

Walker, aged 37, also of Wolver-hampton Street, Dudley, was sent to prison for 17 weeks after also admitting outraging public decency.

£6,900 goes to mavor's charities

THE Mayor of Dudley's charities appeal fund has been given a huge boost after £6,900 was raised at the annual

Three hundred guests attended the sell-out fundraiser on March 18 when for the first time the Mayor's Ball was combined with the Civic Awards. The cash was donated by guests

during the evening by bidding in an auction, as well as a tombola, sit-down stand-up bingo and a raffle. Prizes and items had all been donated. Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho said: "I am overwhelmed by the generosity."

New campaign on Type 2 diabetes

NEW projects aimed at helping people at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes are being launched in Dudley and Sandwell.

These are two of 27 areas across These are two of 27 areas across the country due to begin offering the scheme, which includes help with healthy eating and exercise. The schemes are part of the national NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme aimed at helping patients change their

GPs will invite people they know to be at high risk to enrol for tailored help.

Council's app is a download hit

THOUSANDS of people have made use of the Dudley Council smartphone app, which has received its 3,000th download.

The app allows people to report a range of issues to the council including fly-tipping, graffiti and potholes. People can also get the latest news from the borough, see the latest job opportunities, while tenants can resurch home propriets. quest home repairs.

The app is available via iTunes or the Google Play store.

Making bunting for the Oueen's birthday

THERE is will be chances to learn how to make decorative patriotic bunting at Sedgley Library in time for the Queen's 90th birthday celebra

Bunting workshops are being held at the library in Ladies Walk on April 19 from 4pm to 6pm and April 21 from

10am to noon.

The bunting made at the workshops will be used for the Royal celebration event at Dudley Local History and Archives Centre on June 10.

Club quiz fundraiser

LYE Cricket Club is holding a fund raising quiz night.

The event at its pavilion in Stour-bridge Road on Friday, April 8, at 7.30pm and is for teams of up to six people.

It will cost £2 per team member to

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Ref injured in violence at a children's match

violence flared among spectators at a children's match in Halesowen.

Oliver Howard, aged 25, was left 'battered and bruised' following the trouble that erupted while he refereed a game between two under-14s teams.

der-14s teams.

A male spectator, aged 49, was also injured in the incident during the game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers under-14s.

Tempers flared with several people alleged to have the reliable of the several people alleged to

Tempers flared with several people alleged to have been involved, according to an onlooker. Police have arrested a 52-year-old man in connection with the violence. He has been bailed pending further inquires.

Mr Howard, who has been a referee for around five years, said onlookers came to his aid following the altercation at a Sunday match.

The referee, from Halesowen, said he was unable to go into the details of the allegations due to the ongoing police probe.

Horrible

But he did say: "I'm OK following what happened. It was a horrible experience. My concern is always for the welfare of the young players in this instance."

The 11-a-side fixture was being played in Stouvbridge and District Youth and Girls Foot-

Stourbridge and District Youth and Girls Football League.
League chairman Bob Hickman said he was shocked by the incident.
"I don't get it with some people who think they are at the World Cup rather than watching junior football," he said. "I have liaised with Mr Howard since it happened and my concern was for his welfare."
Mr Hickman said violence had flared in the past, prompting the league to introduce a respect programme this season. This involves spot checks at games, education for players, and ensuring child welfare and enjoyment of

spot cnecks at games, education for players, and ensuring child welfare and enjoyment of the sport is a priority.

West Midlands Police spokesman Hannan Fitzgerald said: "A man has been arrested following an assault at a Halesowen amateur football match. Police were called to Newfield Park, Whittingham Boad following recent that a that match, rome were damed to received rais, Whittingham Road, following reports that a 49-year-old man had been assaulted. Officers arrested a 52-year-old man from an address in Halesowen. The man has been bailed pending feathers will be sentiated.

further police enquiries."

Mr Howard said details of the incident were in his report for Birmingham County FA.



Steve Cutler, of Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of CAMRA, presents landlord Mel Wood with his certificate for pub of the year

the Beacon Hotel in Sedg-ley and the Jolly Crispin in Upper Gornal. DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT or anyone who just needs extra help DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets FREE OF CHARGE t come to us, we'll come to YOU will bring 100s of carpet samples a and bed brochures to your door

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THE BEST OF RHODES



THINGS misheard. A reader recalls her two children returning from a music lesson at primary school singing: "Edelweiss, edelweiss, bless my old man forever."

ANOTHER reader swears he heard someone on Bargain Hunt (BBC1) showing off a haemorrhoid baromete

RESEARCH by the Royal College of Music suggests that playing the drums in group sessions can help reduce the players' depression and anxiety. And what of the mental wellbeing of the people next door . . ?

INSURANCE company research shows the number of speeding drivers nabbed by police last year was up 20 per cent on the previous year. Good to see one successful growth industry, innit? Kerching!

PRESUMABLY the cops are able to concentrate on hunting down motorists because figures for recorded crime are falling. But then it's no wonder, given that crime figures are shamelessly massaged to leave out anything embarrassing. For example, my computer spam folder shows that between March 13-23 there were 88 attempts to steal personal information and take money from me. There are literally billions of these attempted thefts every year, yet they appear absolutely nowhere in any crime statistics. Mind how you go.

CLAYTON Williams, aged 19, has been jailed for 20 years for killing Pc Dave Phillips during a high speed chase, just three after coming out of jail on licence. This is what his lawyer told the court



told the court: "Mr Williams comes from a deprived area of Merseyside and . . . had a lack of educa-

tion and a lack of opportunity. Lessons need to be learnt by Government that communities and young people, who are abandoned by the State, who lack opportunity and direction will sometimes turn to crime." So in this version, Williams is the victim, Pc Phillips was part of the system that oppressed him and the real villains were the politicians. What a wonderful exercise in shifting the blame. Paid for, of course, by you and me.

HOW to deal with terrorists? Christine Shawcroft, a member of Labour's national Snawcroft, a member of Labour's national executive, says we should have a cup of tea with Islamic State leaders instead of bombing them. When her comments become public, she insisted they were "jocular." So here's the joke in full. Speaking at a lat. So fields the loke if fluid. Speaking at Labour First meeting, she imagined a voter suggesting that Jeremy Corbyn would take tea with terrorists instead of fighting them. And here's the "jocular" punchline. Shawcroft said: "Now I mean, you know, maybe we should try it!" Don't give up the day job, eh?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Police use Tasers on people young as 14 Ban and jail

TASERS have been deployed nearly 700 times in three years by police in the West Midlands.

Figures reveal that people as young as 14 have had the stun gun

young as 14 have had the stun gun used on them by officers. Between 2013 and 2015 Tasers were deployed a total of 696 times in the region. They were used 230 times in 2013, 251 times in 2014 and 215 times in 2015. In 2013 the youngest

person targeted was 15. But in 2014 and 2015 the youngest target was 14. The figures, released after a Free-dom of Information request, also re-vealed the techniques used to fire the

vealed the techniques used to fire the controversial weapon.

An 'angled drive stun' was used 26 times in the three years, which sees officers fire the Taser with a live cartridge inside and holds the device to

This causes them to become incapacitated. A Taser was deployed in a 'drive stun' action 19 times in the period, where officers pull the trigger while it is held against someone's body. This causes pain but does not knock them out.

West Midlands Police said the fig-ures related to how many times a Taser had been deployed rather than how many people had been 'Tasered'.

in a year.

Chief Inspector Danny Delaney, said: "Tasers are not drawn lightly by said: "Tasers are not drawn lightly by officers. They are used where there is a risk of violence and provide an ad-ditional option to resolve situations that can arise from all sections of the public, including under-18s. Officers have undergone detailed training."

Lots of children's fun activities at museums pursuit.

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy lots more activities, holiday schools and family fun days with the Juniors at Museums club this Easter break.

Activities are on offer at Dud-ley Council's two museum sites, from craft activities to films to

from craft activities to films to free trails.

Free family trails, where children can hunt for clues around the venues, will be available every day to April 10 at the Red House Glass Cone and until April 9 at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

There is a free, drop-in, Sticky Saturday session on April 9 at Dudley Museum and at the Red House Glass Cone on April 16 with the chance to have a go at a craft and get messy and sticky. Sticky Saturday runs 1.30pm to 3.30pm at both venues.

Dudley Museum is continuing its popular Family Film Club on April 9 at 11am. Drop in and see what's

Jungle

Dudley Museum is also hosting a drop-in 'jungle madness' family crafts day on April 7 from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Families can take part in a range of craft activities for £2.35 per child. There is no need to book for this session

At the Red House Glass Cone. Wordsley, on Monday youngsters aged eight to 12 can enrol in a daylong spring themed holiday school from 9.30am to 3.30pm and take part in a range of crafts, under the safe guidance of museum education

safe guidance of museum education staff. Places cost £23 and must be booked and paid for in advance.

There is also the chance to make fused glass cats and dogs at the cone on Tuesday with bookable sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am and 1pm. Sessions cost £4.25.

Dudley Museum is open 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday, closed Bank Holidays; Red House Glass Cone opens 10.4 Monday to Sunday, open Bank Holidays. See www. dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums website.

Singing African orphans inspire pupils



Joshua Mukisa and Charlie Hollowood, front, with the Destiny Africa Choir and members of Amlecote Primary choir

rican drumming.

AN AFRICAN choir left pupils at a Stourbridge primary school 'spellbound' by their stunning performances.

The Destiny Africa Children's Choir from Uganda spent a day at Amblecote Primary, performing their own songs, sharing the stage with the school choir and putting on a drumming workshop.

The inspirational group – made up of orphans aged from nine to 20 – are travelling Europe as part of a tour to 'share their story of hope and change lives'.

Headteacher Ann Mason said the event had been wonderful' and inspired both children and adults alike. She said: "We had an assembly in the afternoon and they performed to the children and the school. Our children were spellbound.

"They sang some of their songs and our choir sang with them, then some of our children went to learn Af-

"They were so enthusiastic and energetic, dancing and moving, it was wonderful. That is what their culture is about, moving and dancing."

What truly shone through was the determination of all members of the choir to overcome their difficult starts in life and really make a difference, added Mrs Mason. "What is inspiring is the fact that they are all orphans and have had awful lives, lost their families, but they are still positive and have high aspirations."

A sale of African crafts raised money for the visitors and the school gave a £300 donation.

sentence for 'hardened' drink-driver

A DRINK-DRIVER from Lower Gor-A DRINK-DRIVER from Lower Gor-nal has been jailed and banned from the roads for seven years after he crashed into a car when more than three times the alcohol limit before fleeing the scene in Sedgley. But Lee Bias was tracked down by

But Lee dias was tracked down by the driver whose car he had hit. Bias, aged 39, was driving his Saab in High Holborn when he hit a Peu-geot, knocking off its wing mirror, and the aggrieved driver set off in

Bias, of North Oval, had 116 micro-Bias, of North Oval, had 116 micro-grammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath when tested by police. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes. Bias initially claimed he had drunk wine after returning home after the project by the letter pleaded willy to

incident but later pleaded guilty to drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

District judge Graham Wilkinson was told that Bias had three previous convictions for drink-driving, dating back to 1994.

As he was not breathalysed immediately after the accident. Mr Wilkinson

ately after the accident, MF WIKINSON said it was likely the alcohol reading would have been higher at the time of the crash.

Jailing Bias for 20 weeks and disqualifying him, Mr Wilkinson told him: "You are a hardened drink-driver, one of the hardcore who can't get the message. For 22 years you have been willing to kill someone. You are a man who believes he can drink and drive. People like you have to learn the consequences of drinking

MP speaks out for mini-bond victims

AN MP has launched a campaign in support of hundreds of people who lost thousands of pounds in a mini-bonds scheme which turned sour. A total of £7.5 million was invested

A total of £7.5 million was invested in a scheme operated by Secured Energy Bonds (SEB). The scheme was approved by a Financial Conduct Authority authorised firm, but the money was never invested in renew. able energy as promised. Most of the money was siphoned to the business's Australian parent company before it went into administration, leaving in-

vestors out of pocket.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said:
"I'm really concerned that people across the country have lost nearly £7.5m after being ripped off. The authorities should make sure that no one is left out of pocket."

Hundreds struck by scarlet fever in region

MORE than 200 cases of scarlet fever have been confirmed across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre For-est since September. But in Dudley there has been a drop with 73 chil dren diagnosed compared with 102 during the previous season.

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goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Tata Steel sites saved as rescue move grows

LIBERTY House, the company that swept in to salvage factories and almost 1,000 jobs in the Black Country

most 1,000 jobs in the Black Country after the collapse of Caparo, has now saved two steel plants in Scotland.

It puts the former Caparo plants in the Black Country at the centre of a nationwide steel business with a declared aim to invest and rebuild.

Liberty, headed by the Gupta family, has struck a deal with the Scottish Government to buy both of Tats Steel's mothballed plants in Dalzell and Clydebridge.

The move is set to mark a dramatic change in fortunes for the workforce

change in fortunes for the workforce at the former Caparo engineering plants who faced losing their jobs six months ago. Caparo Industries col-lapsed with £160 million of debt in Oc-tober and it led to the loss of around

tober and it led to the loss of around 500 jobs.

But Liberty House, which had reopened the former Mir Steel plant in Newport, South Wales, just a few months before, saved 950 jobs as it bought Caparo's tubing, engineering and strip businesses in Bilston, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Willenhall, Wednesbury, Cradley Heath and Dudley.

Wednesbury, Cradley Heath and Dudley.

At the same time as Caparo collapsed, Tata Steel mothballed its two Scottish plants, costing the jobs of nearly 300 workers. But now a back-to-back' agreement has seen the Scottish Government buying the plants from Tata Steel and then immediately selling them on to Liberty for the same terms, at no cost to the taxpayer.

New hit-and-run witness appeal

POLICE have renewed a witness appeal for information a year after a Sandwell teenager was killed in a hitand-run crash.

Adam Jones, aged 15, was knocked down in West Bromwich and despite a massive police investigation the killer has still not been caught.

The teenager, from Wednesbury, died when he was hit by a blue Volkswagen Bora as he crossed the Volkswagell bord as liet crossed the junction of Beacon View Road and Walsall Road in West Bromwich with his bike, just after 7.30pm on March 26 last year. The driver abandoned the vehicle and ran off without calling for help for Adam.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Charity quiz night in aid of Oxfam

PEOPLE can test their general knowledge at a quiz in aid of Stour-bridge Oxfam on Saturday at Holy Trinity Church Hall in Amblecote at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 which in-cludes fish and chips or vegan option.

Tributes after Sandwell Council boss dies NEWS IN BRIEF 5



Popular politician Darren Cooper

'HE was Black Country through and through.' That's just one of the many tributes paid to Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper after his sudden death at the weekend.

People from across the political spectrum joined former Labour Party leaders Ed Miliband, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair in paying tribute to Councillor Cooper, 52, who led the borough's authority for nearly seven

years. Many suggested he had been destined for even greater things. West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey said he had 'no doubt' Council-

lor Cooper was on track to be elected as an MP or metro mayor of the new West Midlands Combined Authority.

West Midlands Combined Authority.
Mr Blair said the council leader was
'one of Labour's most committed and
passionate local government leaders
of the last 20 years'.
Mr Cooper was hailed as 'a true son
of Sandwell' by friend Tom Watson,
the deputy leader of the Labour Party
and West Bromwich East MP. Councillor Cooper was elected in Soba and cillor Cooper was elected in Soho and Victoria ward in Smethwick, where he grew up, in 1991 and became council leader in December 2009.

The father of three, who died at home on Saturday, had played a key role in bringing together the West Midlands Combined Authority in a bid to ensure the region can compete with London and big northern cities.

Mr Watson said: "We shall all miss Darren's a true seen of Sandwall My

Mr Watson said: "We shall all miss Darren, a true son of Sandwell. My thoughts, prayers and love are with his wife Karen and Darren's family." Mr Bailey, who knew Councillor Cooper for 25 years, said: "He loved public service, he loved politics and he loved the Black Country. He was Black Country through and through."

Bus benches back at Merry Hill stop

BOSSES at Merry Hill have made a U-turn over their decision to remove benches by the bus station. Shoppers called for them to be re-

turned saying there was a lack of seat-

turned saying there was a lack of seat-ing for people waiting for buses. Now Intu, which owns the shopping centre, has pledged to bring them back. Guest services manager Kay Star-key said: "We temporarily removed the seating from the area near the bus station as part of a wider seating review. We will be re-instating some of the seating back into this area in the coming weeks."

Homes planned at former school

PLANNING bosses have backed plans to knock down a former prima-ry school in Pensnett to make way for new homes.

The Education Centre in Church Street has been empty for several years and last used as a training base.

years and last used as a training base.
A total of 14 homes would be built
on the site under the plans with the
development split into detached and
semi-detached properties.
The scheme has been recommended

for approval with a final decision ex pected to be made by Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday

Hundreds back Sir Jack banner call

MORE than 600 people have signed a petition calling for a banner in tribute to Sir Jack Hayward to be reinstated at Molineux. Wolves fan Mark Evans is calling on

woives ian mark Evans is caining on the club to bring back a banner, which was put up in tribute to former Wolves owner and life president Sir Jack after his death in January last year. Mr Evans set up a petition online at thepetitionsite.com, and now more than 620 people have supported the

Recycle Easter Egg packaging at store

SHOPPERS can recycle their Easter egg packaging at Sainsbury's Am-blecote until Tuesday, April 12.

The specially designed Easter recycling facility allows customers to recycle the elements of Easter egg packaging – including plastic, card

packaging – including plastic, card and paper.

The scheme makes it easier to recy-cle the packaging from eggs, and in-cludes rigid plastic, which not all local kerbside collections accept.

Bavarian fundraiser

TICKETS have gone on sale for an annual Bavarian themed fundraiser on April 22 at Wilson Hall in Colley Gate in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets for the event, which starts at 7.15pm, cost £15 and include a fish and chips supper. Call (01384) 377778.

Sale of vicious 'zombie' nives to be banned

THE sale, manufacture and importing of vicious 'zombie' knives is to be banned, after a campaign backed by MPs and the region's police and crime commissioner.

The new legislation announced by Home Secretary Theresa May will mean offenders could face up to four years in

prison.
The knives have names such as Head Splitter, Death Dagger and The Skinner.
It is already an offence to be in possession

It is already an offence to be in possession of a 'zombie-killer' kinfe in a public place and school premises under the Act.

The ban will form part of the Government's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy.

It follows a campaign by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson accepted the public of the representation.

against the sale of the weapons.

Mr Jamieson met Home Office minister
Karen Bradley, Staffordshire Moorlands MP,
to discuss the issue earlier this month.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has also spoken in Parliament against the sale of the brutal-looking knives

tal-looking knives.

tal-looking knives.

Last week Home Secretary Theresa May said: "There can be no legitimate reason for anyone to need one of these so called 'zombie-killer' knives.

"The fact that they glamourise violence and are clearly marketed at teenagers makes them

all the more sickening.

"They are dangerous weapons and have no place on our streets."

West Midlands Police Chief Constable Dave Thompson had also voiced his concern over the startling rise in blades being used in attacks.

Trend

At least four of the 13 muders in the Black Country last year were stabbings.

A 'zombie knife' was recently found in the West Midlands, sparking fears they may be becoming more widespread across the region.

Earlier this month, Mr Jamieson said: "In the case of 'zombie knives' we are getting in before any serious problems arise. The knives are beginning to appear in the West Midlands. This is a new trend. Let's get in before they are everywhere on our streets."

The Government says it has already taken action to tackle knife crime including minimum mandatory sentences of up to six months prison for those caught in possession of a knife

prison for those caught in possession of a knife for a second time.

First Charlotte memorial award



Charlotte's parents Martyn and Barbara present the award in their daughter's name to eight-year-old Jacob Lain

A PRIZE awarded in the memory of a Black Country girl killed in the Dunblane school massacre 20 years ago has been presented a pupil at her former school.

pupil at her former school.
Jacob Lain is the first recipient
of Cradley C of E Primary's Charlotte Dunn Award.
Charlotte, aged five, grew up in
the Black Country and spent her
reception year at the school before
moving to Scotland.
In a moving ceremony last wek

In a moving ceremony last wek

at St Peter's Church, Cradley, at St Peter's Church, Cradley, where Charlotte was baptised, her parents Barbara and Martyn pre-sented eight-year-old Jacob with the prize. The Year 3 pupil said he was 'really happy and excited' while his father Matt, 33, said he

was 'so proud'.

Mr Dunn, 55, donned a Lion
King tie for the occasion in a nod
to Charlotte's favourite film. He called Jacob a richly-deserving winner of the prize, awarded to a

pupil who exemplifies the school's

Mr Dunn said: "He has set the standard for others to follow. It was great to see someone so proud and the smile on his face when we called his name was lovely

The award was presented at the end of the school's Easter service. Cradley headteacher Marcia Harris, who also taught Charlotte, said: "Jacob is a lovely, sensible, earth, was many man." gentle young man.

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IN MY VIEW

Basement for £70m? I'm in the wrong job

MY first reaction to reading about tycoon Robert Beecham's plans for a £70 million underground basement in Primrose Hill, central London, was that I must be in the wrong job.

wrong job.

The application, approved by Camden Council, includes a Roman bath, juice bar, and room to store his cigar collection. And, according to the reports, Mr Beecham has made his money out of Star Wars bubble bath.

My second thought was about why people go to these lengths just for the sake of living in central London.

You would think somebody enterprising enough to make billions out of Darth Vader detergent would have the imagination to realise that there is also cleaner

Watford Gap, where there is also cleaner air and plenty of space to build as big a cigar room as you could possibly want. But then I read that the project will cause noise and disruption for Jamie Olinary I be a space of the constraint of the project will cause noise and disruption for Jamie Olinary I be build page.

ver. In that case, bring on the bulldozers.

THERE have been a lot of changes to West Bromwich in recent years. Most of

West Bromwich in recent years, must on them positive.
Yes, there was the disastrous Public arts centre, which in reality became a very expensive public toilet, but that was years ago, and it at least looks like lessons have been learned from that debacks.

And the New Square shopping devel-opment is a prime example of what can be achieved when local government works with retailers and developers, and

works with retailers and oevelopers, and gives the people what they want, rather than what it thinks they should want. However, one thing that has never been addressed is the dreadful road layout. One-way systems, no-entry signs, no-left turn, no-right turn.

Every time I have been down there in the hunt for the very limited number of free, on-street parking spaces – and wild horses would not make me pay for car parking – I have become lost in the night-

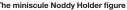
parking - Have become lost in the high-marish road system.

And more often than not, I seem to end up by the bus station.

Have I broken any traffic regulations? I hope not, but in all honesty, it is possible. Anyway, the council has now decid-Anyway, the council has now decided to undo much of the good work by installing a CCTV camera on one of the bus-only roads. It will no doubt prove to be a gold mine, raising a fortune from all the confused motorists, but I'm not going to be one of them. I think I will be steering clear of West Bromwich for a while.

MEMORY like a sieve, me. Completely forgot all about Earth Hour on March 19, when we were supposed to turn out our lights as a gesture towards fighting global warming. Never mind, did mine between 1 am and 2 am on Sunday, to mark the start of British Summer Time. Better late







Music legend Robert Plant



Willard seen with his unique viewing stations to magnify the artworks



Willard getting to the point for next display

NICK HUMPHREYS talks to the creator of amazing microscopic figures Willard Wigan as he plans a new exhibition

BLACK Country rock legend Noddy Holder and micro-sculpting star Willard Wigan look set to join forces again with a mini monsters of rock show.

Willard unveiled his incredible sculp-ture of the Slade frontman in the eye of a needle at Wolverhampton's Light House. And such was the reaction from both Noddy and the crowd, that the acclaimed artist wants

to create a legends of rock music exhibition in the West Midlands.

the West Midlands.

He plans to create sculptures of Led Zeppelin, Robert Plant, ELO as well as Black Sabbath frontman and West Midlands music legend Ozzy Osbourne. Mr Wigan said: "What we have done is we have started something here. I want to celebrate the West Midlands and the legends of rock music.
"I am going to New York to film a commercial for Nestle where I'm going to be carving the world's smallest piece of chocolate.

Legends

"But when I come back, I'm going to make sculptures of Led Zeppelin, Robert Plant, ELO, Ozzy Osbourne and other legends of rock and we're going to hold an exhibition in the West Midlands. I'd like Noddy to host it for me.

"I want to celebrate music and the West Midlands. The 60s and 70s was the best era for music, it still influences young people today."

Walsall-raised Noddy hopes the Light House exhibition and the rock legends one, which is being planned, will make people sit up and take notice that the Black Country has talent. He said: "The thing is, you go around the world and people hear you speak and they think you're thick. People say we've got nothing here. I always say, 'well have you ever been?" They've never experienced the warmth of the people, it's the people that make a place.



Willard Wigan with the ex-Slade singer at the launch of his exhibition at The Light House

I don't live here any more but my heart is al-

I don't live here any more but my heart is always here. You never lose your roots."

Mr Wigan added: "Think of the people who have come from here, you've got Noddy, myself, Denise Lewis, Goldie, the list goes on. There are talented people from here, so people shouldn't think that because they come from the Midlands they can't go on to achieve big things.

"The Queen of England was so overwhelmed by my work she gave me three letters," added Mr Wigan, who was given an MBE in 2007 for

The sculpture of Noddy is the main attraction at the exhibition, which features more than 20 miniature masterpieces.

All the works have been created in the eye of a needle, set on a plate and mounted understand the standard of the standa

eath a microscope inside a perspex bubble. After becoming visibly emotional and

shocked at the likeness of the tiny artwork

shocked at the likeness of the tiny artwork to himself, in which he's wearing a sharp suit and has his trademark wild hair, he warmly embraced and thanked the creator.

Noddy, aged 69, said: "To have someone who is at the top of the tree at what they do to make something like that, it's probably the biggest honour I've ever had, and I've been a professional in the music industry for 50 years. He is the biggest and the best in the world at what he does.

"When I look at it, it is me! When I saw that he'd done it I had to come and see it in the flesh, and it is just brilliant. I am honoured that he has done this for me."

Mayor of Wolverhampton Ian Brookfield and city MP Rob Marris were among the admirers of Willard's work at the exhibition, as well as West Midlands stars Jemma Bird, of The Apprentice fame, drummer Fuzz Town-

Steind, singer comine ration from briain's Got Talent and voice artist Marc Silk.

On his incredible work of Noddy, said: "When I set about to do this, I thought is there anybody worth me putting in the eye of a needle?

"There are a few, but I thought is there anware fees were however that it a made only a

yone from my hometown that has made such a big influence on the world. Someone from the West Midlands

West Midlands.

"Then I thought, I know who he is, because my mum keeps singing his songs every Christmas! She's passed away now but I still here her singing his songs.

"His name is Noddy Holder, one of the greatest rock legends of all time.

"I wanted to make the biggest, smallest tribute to the man on this earth."

He added: "Noddy has had that massive impact on the world that will live on forever, this huge legacy.

pact on the world that will live on forever, this huge legacy.

"I thought about putting the whole band in the eye of a needle, I could have done it."

Other works on display include Jesus Christ with his disciples at the last supper, trees depicting the four seasons and the evolution of man. There are are also sculptures of Frozen characters Elsa and Olaf, UFC superstar Conor McGregor, Bugs Bunny and Mario and Luigi among the intricate pieces.

Willard added: "The message is to never underestimate something small. I was told by my schoolteachers that I would amount to nothing, I would be cleaning out bins because

oby my schooleachers that I would aniothic to nothing, I would be cleaning out bins because I was stupid. I was used as an advert for failure because I had a learning difficulty." He cites his mother as one of his biggest in-spirations. He said: "She always said you can say a lot but mean nothing, or you can say a few words that mean a lot."

few words that mean a lot."

To create such tiny artwork, Willard has to work between heartbeats and become relaxed into a meditative state, as the smallest movement can destroy his work.

The tools used to create the sculpture were personally manipulated and fashioned by Willard to include as a chisel - a shared of diament.

personally manipulated and fashioned by Wil-lard to include as a chisel – a shard of diamond; and a syringe as a style of holder. The hair of an aphid fly was then used to fi-nally paint the sculpture, whilst using the claw of the fly to hold him still whilst applying the paint. The exhibition runs until May 2.







Friday 25th March (Good Friday) £15 Western-Super-Mare

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Thursday, March 31, 2016

The myth of EU intelligence sharing Garden city, EUROPE abounds with myths and legends ing of intelligence across the EU is at best

and when these are only confined to litera-ture, they are absorbing reading.

However, when myths are spread by govservices cooperate, share information and thereby defeat those wishing to reduce us to our basic atoms is total balderdash. As in France and currently, sadly in Bel-

gium, it is clear that co-ordination and shar-

ory poor (in Belgium, even between police and intelligence services). Furthermore, that much-admired EU pol-

ernments with a particular agenda to spin, it is quite another matter. I have always movement never mentions free that is quite another matter. I have always movement of jihadis, bomb-making equipthought that the propaganda that being in ment and arms across Europe. Once inside the EU means that intelligence/security the porous EU's Mediterranean borders, movement of these murderous psychopaths together with their equipment is made eas-

ier.

A M ETHERIDGE

Dudley

as Good as it was

HAVE people forgot the meaning of Good Friday?

When I was growing up
40 years ago all that was
open was shops selling wet
fish and veg.
There were no other

shops open – no cinemas, no buses ran till after 4pm, pro-grammes on TV were all re-ligious and not the rubbish that's on these days. Public houses were only open after

form.

Every shop nowadays is money grabbing. It was nice walking down the town to do window shopping with most of them shut and most had Easter eggs in and my children would see how many they could find to receive a prize and all money made would go to the local hospital.

Most streets would do an Easter egg hunt and there were prizes.

were prizes.
They do nothing nowadays for the children. They just stay indoors watching TV or playing on computers. We had fun in the 1950s/60s/70s, it's no fun these days for children.

J ROBERTS

Friday not **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

POST

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

The commuters are ruining town trade

MY business partner and I, along with two clients, watched as two traffic enforcement officers took photos and gave parking fines to two drivers who had parked in the road in Rose-ville, Coseley.

Yes, I admit they had parked on yellow lines but anyone who either owns a business in Coseley, or tries to come to Roseville to use the shops, will I'm sure agree that getting a parking space anywhere near is vir-tually impossible.

And the reason being is because the railway users are now taking over virtually every space and the railway taking over virtually every ally every space available, just leaving the odd one here and there and that's if you can get into the space they have left that they expect

If you park on the library one of their workers tells you to get off, or leaves little notes on your car if he doesn't want to tell you faceto-face.

My question is this - why should we pay when we're using the shops and the railway users get off scotfree when they either work miles away or do their shopping elsewhere by train.

I think now it's time the council does something before our shops close due to lack of custom and Coseley becomes just one massive car park.

D BUNCE

truth or Lve? I was surprised and delighted to learn of the possibility that the small Black Coun-

try town of my birth, Lye, or The Lye to give it its full name, was to become a garden city.

I was only slightly disappointed to learn that Lye was only going to be part of the new metropolis, along with some portions of Dudley Port and Wolver-hampton. Never mind, it all sounds wonderful.

I am not sure where the city centre will be, maybe Pensnett should put itself forward as it has St Mark's Church, known as the cathedral of the Black Country Will we get a new football team? Where will the coun-cillors and the mayor meet? We must settle for any im-

provements going.

Can anybody suggest an appropriate name for this imaginary city?

A BARRETT Kingswinford

Catch this art while you can

AS the closure of our art museum has been confirmed seum has been confirmed, may I suggest that as many people as possible get to see the room which is given over to Dudley's great artist Percy Shakespeare. He was a working class boy who managed to become

boy who managed to become an internationally acclaimed painter before his untimely death in World War Two.

The way his work is displayed in a small room of this iconic building shows the pictures perfectly, and should be seen in their natural place while there is still ural place while there is still

R GWILLIAMS



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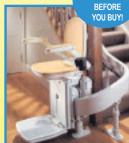
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Restoring park to its former glory

Clent Hills Rotary Club

HEAD of Landscape at Hagley Hall, Joe Hawkins, described the work he has been carrying out on the restoration of the historic Grade I listed Hagley Park. Joe has been working for three years in pursuit of Lord Cobham's dream to

Lord Cobham's dream to return the parkland to its 18th century glory. His excellent presenta-tion showed how the plan commenced by George, the first Lord Lyttelton, was a forerunner of a new concept of natural picturesque landscape design which contrasted with the layout of formal gardens of earlier

of formal gardens or earner centuries.
Within the original hillside land form, new lakes and cascades were formed, and walkways created through areas of woodland and open spaces. This new natural parkland garden attracted worldwide attention, and was frequently wisted.

tracted worldwide attention, and was frequently visited by poets John Milton and Alexander Pope.

Over time, lakes had become silted up, building features almost completely lost, woodland altered naturally and pathways overgrown. grown.

An archived plan of Hagley Estate dated 1825 has formed the basis for the res-toration work but the care-ful research and detailed site investigation by Joe and his team have revealed

and his team have revealed some exciting original cas-cade features.

Giving a vote of thanks, Keith Sprason said the pres-entation had taken them on an enthralling journey from 'Paradise Lost' to 'Paradise Regained'.

Floral artists ensure Easter is in bloom



The Floral Arts sub-group of the Tuesday Club show off their Easter creations

EASTER was the theme for the members of the Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild

Floral Arts sub-group of the Tuesday Club.

The group meets once a month where members enjoy a variety of crafts, including flower arranging, card-making and recently

jewellery making.

Members can also just drop in for a knit and natter and a drink.

The main guild meeting takes place at

Sedgley Morning TWG

10am on the first Thursday of the month at All Saints Parish Hall, Vicar Street, Sedg-

ley.

The next meeting will be on the April 7 when Chris Smith, local historian will give a talk entitled 'Made in The Black Country'. Visitors will be very welcome.

Tragic tale of misfortune

THE March meeting was chaired by vice-chairman Ann Rogers at The Lodge – 32 members gave visitor Jean Whitehouse a warm welcome on her first visit.

Once again the meal was excellent and so was speaker Chris Smith, the editor of the Village Voice Magazine.

He explained how his interest in history had led him to start the maga-zine so he could record the remarkable story of the Beardsmore family. It was a truly inspiring but tragic **Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club**

tale of a mining family who survived flooded mines and explosions before deciding to emigrate to New Zealand. Unfortunately misfortune followed them as four of them were later killed in another explosion.

He then held everyone's attention as he told sev-eral unbelievable stories, and members had to guess which one was a lie. No one guessed correctly. Even the

claim that Jack the Ripper came from Kingswinford and that a Dudley vet had made boots for an elephant and false teeth for a cow and dog were true.

The next luncheon will be on Friday, April 8 at 12.30pm. The speaker will be Adrian Barrett on Life and Death in Dudley Limestone Mines. On May 13 Jessie and Jo Powell will bring jewellery and collectables.

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ford, who swindled £64,000 in disability benefits, were caught on CCTV lifting heavy goods at their florist shop.
Arthur McCarroll claimed that it

Arthur McCarron chained that took him as long as four minutes to walk three metres, while his wife Susan claimed she needed help getting in and out of chairs.

But footage obtained by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) investi-

gators shows her comfortably carrying hanging baskets filled with soil and flowers and him loading heavy boxes into a car. Mrs McCarroll, 65, was also a regular trader at car boot sales.

a regular trader at car boot sales.
Prosecutor Maxine McIntosh told
Dudley Magistrates Court that Susan
McCarroll had claimed £35,040 since
2002 and was in receipt of disability
living allowance from 1997 on the
grounds she was severely disabled.

Ailments

"In her self assessment claim form, she stated that she had high mobility restriction and needs. But she failed to declare to the DWP when her need for regular care ceased.

"On the claim form she submitted

"On the claim form sne submittee in 2003 she claimed she was unable to walk. It said she was affected by numerous ailments. She couldn't walk far without discomfort and had to be with someone when she was outside due to the danger that she may fall. She seeded help ratting out of her chair.

to the danger that she may fall. She needed help getting out of her chair, getting in and out of bed, attending to her toilet needs. She referred to her husband as being her personal carer." Miss McIntosh added: "She was involved in the day to day running of the flower business. She regularly attended car boot sales as a trader. During surveillance, she was seen to be going about her day to day duties at the flower shop without problems. She was also filmed at a car boot sale, and



Susan and Arthur McCarroll leave Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting fraud

her capabilities and mobility seemed to be much improved.

Of Arthur McCaroll 58 who claimed 29,203, the prosecutor said: "He was claiming disability living allowance, incapacity benefit and employment support allowance. His claim stated he support allowance. His claim stated he could only walk for three metres and it took him two to four minutes to do that. It said he was in danger of falling. It also said he was a high risk heart patient. Two witnesses said they regularly go into the shop and they had never seen him need help.

The pair, from Larch Road, King-swinford, both pleaded guilty to fraud. Mr James McGowan, defending Susan McCarroll, said: "She accepts there has been some improvement and she should have declared her change in circumstances." Mr Mandeep Gill, defending Mr McCarroll, said he was

of previous good character. He was sentenced to 36 weeks in prison suspended for two years. She received a 26-week sentence sus-pended for two years. Each were given a six-week curfew.



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Goat-to attraction is zoo over Easter holiday

style with the opening of rainings Falls and Macaques on the Bank. The new £120,000 attraction Flamingo Falls will see the existing exhibit enhanced to create a much bigger pool and a larger indoor area with a viewing space to get a real class un.

close-up.

There is also a chance to win a year-long adoption for Maisie the giant rabbit – who tips the scales at a whopping 14Ibs – by taking part in the annual Easter bunny trail around the 200

around the zoo.

Marketing manager Andrea
Hales said: "We've got lots lined up
throughout the holidays to make
your day out really egg-cellent.
There's something for all ages to

DUDLEY Zoo has geared up for a busy Easter period, including the unveiling of two new attractions.

The school holidays kicked off in style with the opening of Flamingo under the control of the world's rarest conservation work during our daily talks and animal feeds."

Elsewhere across the 40-acre site. Elsewhere across the 40-acre site, visitors can meet a pair of newborn African pygmy goats and newly-hatched chicks as well as rabbits, chickens, ducks and pigs on the zoo's own farm.

There are also Easter card craft-

There are also Easter card craft-ing activities in the barn and col-ouring fun in the Oak Kitchen at the Queen Mary Restaurant, where youngsters can design their Easter egg while mum and dad tuck into cakes and snacks.
Visitors will have extra time to see

their favourite animals as the zoo has adopted its summer hours, with last entry at 4pm and the site closing 90 minutes later.



Senior keeper Lesley Lewis with some of the farm animals, including the zoo's twin African pygmy goats

Diversity awareness TV award for Lenny

SIR Lenny Henry has been awarded a surprise fellow-ship of the Royal Television Society at its Programme Awards for his work raising awareness of the need for

diversity in the industry.

The Dudley-born comedian and actor was also presented with the Judges' Award in recognition of his commitment to increasing minority representation in the industry.

the industry.

He won particular praise for his 2014 Bafta Television lecture on the topic. That saw him criticise British TV hits including Broadchurch, Miranda and Midsomer

TV hits including Broadchurch, Miranda and Midsomer Murders for being 'too white'.

He said the shows had fewer black actors than similar US programmes and were not representative of modern Britain and also warned that British black actors may leave the UK to find work in America.

Accepting the two awards, Sir Lenny said: "I'm so truly humbled by this, thank you so much for the fellowship. I'm truly hopeful that this award is a pan-industry acknowledgement that diversity must be at the heart of our industry now and most importantly in the future."

Aldi bosses looking out for 50 new apprentices

the West Midlands this year with more than a dozen shops in the Black Country to benefit.

The company will have more than 700 apprenticeship vacancies for branches across the UK, as part

of its apprenticeship scheme. In the West Midlands, there will be vacancies in Dudley, Netherton, Brierley Hill and Halesowen. Apprentices will

Netherton, Brierley Hill and also be recruited at shops in Oldbury, Stourbridge, Wednesfield and Wolverhampton.

Applications for the scheme opened earlier this month to coincide with the start of National Apprenticeship Week, and will close in October.

Marius Manolescu, regional managing director

Marius Manolescu, re-gional managing director at Aldi, said: "The Aldi Ap-prenticeship Scheme has been hugely successful in delivering hundreds of roles for dedicated people nation-wide in the four years since we launched the scheme.

Opportunity

"We're now looking for a record number of candi-dates to join one of the most dynamic and fast-growing retailers in the UK, with a proven track record in developing and progressing its

"Aldi's apprentices are given real responsibility from day one, with the opportunity to learn about the business from a grassroots level, and we expect our recruits to progress to a management position with us."

Successful apprentices will be trained in all aspects of retail management dur-

By Lisa Wright

ing their three-year course, which features a mixture of in-store and theory work. The scheme offers store

assistant training in year one and store management training in years two and three with a salary of £5.40 per hour rising to £7.85 per hour.

hour.

Apprentices will also receive a Retail Apprenticeship Level 3 qualification.

People can apply for the scheme online at www.

scheme online at www.
aldirecruitment.co.uk/ap
prentice website.
The German supermarket
giant announced last month
that it will create 5,000 jobs
and open 80 new shops this
year under expansion plans.
In the West Midlands,
Aldi is bringing new shops
to Lye and the is also moving onto the former site of

to Lye and the is also moving onto the former site of Dudley's King Arthur pub, which was demolished to make way for the store.

Plans have also been revealed by the firm for a store to be built in Great Barr, which would create around 40 lobs.

40 jobs.
The firm said it would be creating almost 350 jobs in the West Midlands.

Failure to cut beer tax criticised by MEP

WEST Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge has criticised the

WEST Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge has criticised the failure to cut beer duty as another nail in the coffin of the pub industry.

The chancellor froze duty on beer and cider in the budget, despite calls from within the industry to cut it. The UK has the second highest rate in Europe.

According to the British Beer and Pub Association, BBPA, almost 20,000 pubs have been lost since 1982.

The West Midlands UKIP MEP, who is also a councillor for Sedgley, said: "The chancellor has missed a golden opportunity to rescue a struggling industry which provides many jobs, particularly for our younger people.

"Why should beer duty in the UK be 13 times higher than that of Germany? Failure to slash the beer tax in this budget is another nail in the coffin of the pub industry."

UK drinkers pay 52p per pint in tax, one of Europe's highest rates, while Germany pays only 4p tax per pint.





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Shop girl turned singing star says YOLO



Beth Sherburn, of Lower Gornal, was discovered while working at Debenhams in the Merry Hill shopping centre

FROM working in Debenhams to singing on stage at Wembley Arena, it's been a whirlwind few years for singer Beth Sherburn.

Now the 25-year-old from Lower Gornal is about to release her new sin-gle and star om a headline show at a West Midlands rock venue.

Beth releases her latest single 'YOLO' on May 27, and is excited about what the year holds for her.

She will be performing at the Hare & Hounds pub in Kings Heath on Sunday, April 10, and has been busy in the studio working on her album alongside producers Ciaron Bell and

Chelcee Grimes. They have worked with the likes of Kylie Minogue and The Saturdays, a group she went on tour with in 2014.

She said: "I'm really excited about having the chance to perform locally in such a great venue. I love music and there is nothing better than performing live, this is what I do it all for."

She will be going on to perform in lasgow, London and Manchester.

Beth said said she was thrilled about the new single YOLO – which stands for You Only Live Once.

She added: "I hope everyone enjoys the new single, it's really all about liv-

ing your life to the fullest and making ing your life to the fullest and making the most of it. Musically, I feel like I'm in a really good place. Now being in my mid-twenties and with everything I've learned and gone through over the years, I feel I've grown as a musician and a person.

"I feel like this is going to be a good year. Hopefully I'll be involved in some festivals this summer and performing as much as I can."

Working in Debenhams at Merry Hill shopping centre in 2012, she was overheard singing by top music pro-ducer John McLaughlin, who went on to sign her to a £250,000 record deal.





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Volunteer in driver's seat of sports car restoration



IT was like driving back in time for retired engineer Keith Peckmore when he was asked to help restore a sports car he built more than

60 years ago.

Mr Peckmore was part of a team that made the 1100cc Kieft car, which was unveiled for the Earls Court Motorshow in 1954.

More than six decades on, he has been restoring the classic car, which can reach speeds of more than 100mph, at the Black Country Living

Museum in Dudley. Once a month, the group of volunteers at the museum drive the cars around the site to de-

light of the visitors.

The car was specifically made for the motor show and Mr Peckmore believes it was given to Anne, the daughter of Kieft Cars founder Cyril Kieft, as a 21st birthday present. It was given the number plate AK 123 – AK for Anne Kieft

Kieft Cars were a British company that built Formula Three racing cars, with their headquarters at Derry Street in Wolverhampton. The two Kieft cars that were on dis-

sports car he helped make in the 1950s play at the 1954 show had fibreglass bodies and were reported to have been the first ever produced from a single mould as a complete unit. The cars were the first to score an international win using a Coventry Climax engine. Retired engineer Mr Peckmore, who has been part of the museum's volunteer team of eight engineers for five years, only laid eyes on the model again in 2002 at Mr Kieft's memorial in Tettenhall. It was later donated to the Black Country Motor Group, which has had it since 2008.

He said: "It was a wonderful feeling to be reunited with the car again."



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The signalised pedestrian crossing will be created on Swan Street not far from Hillcrest School and Community College.

Bosses said that pupils had been the 'driving force' behind the campaign to install a safer way for them to cross the traffic-heavy road that runs from the busy Cinder Bank island.

Dudley Chronicle

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our main concern was the for the children crossing the road coming back and forth from school.

"It is a very busy road and so to be able to ensure that the children were safe when crossing was our main driving force."

Nursery park pian wrangie

AROUND 80 pupils could be accommodated at a nursery looking to expand onto parkland.

Residents fear the pro-

posed extension to the Netherton Park Nursery School and Kindergarten site encroaches on part of Netherton Park.

Planners will decided on the proposal for the build-ing off Arch Hill Street in coming weeks. Members of the Friends of Netherton Park have been campaign-ing against the plan.

Satisfaction at prison term for cowboy roofer conman

A COWBOY roofer who tried to rip off an elderly couple in Netherton has started a twoyear prison sentence.

Lyndon Pardoe targeted Leonard and Sheila Walker, Lyndon Pardoe targeted Leonard and Sheila Walker, who were both in their 80s, upping his original quote by more than double to almost £10,000 and then carrying out shoddy work on their roof.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Pardoe had worked on the couple's home in Netherton in 2013

By Richard Guttridge

home in Netherton in 2013 before approaching them again a year later claiming a tile was loose on their roof. After gaining their trust, he then told them they needed the whole roof replacing. He originally quoted £3,800 for the job, which then rocketed to £9,800.

But Pardoe's con was

But Pardoe's con was rumbled when the couple's

rumbled when the couple's daughter became suspicious. By the time Trading Standards had been alerted, he had removed most of the old roof and began fitting a new one.

A chartered building surveyor inspected the roof and found the work was so bad that his work had to be abandoned. Speaking after Pardoe

was sentenced, Susan Sabin said her parents were left feeling 'foolish and embar-rassed'. rassed'.
Pardoe, aged 51, of Hazledene Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, who was trad-

ing as Multicare Roofing and Building Services, was jailed after being convicted of fraud and misleading and aggressive commercial prac-tice, following a trial.

Mr Walker died in August last year just six months after celebrating his diamond wedding anniversary.

Judge Julian Taylor said

Judge Julian Taylor said that while Pardoe's actions could not have directly contributed to Mr Walker's death, the roof incident had a huge impact on the victim in the final months of his life. Judge Taylor said: "I have no doubt his final 18 months were spent concerned about what had happened."

The couple's son in law

The couple's son-in-law Keith Sabin said: "He was so careful with money. It really hit him hard." Mrs Sabin added: "We are glad he got a custodial sentence—the latera"." the longer the better.



Susan and Keith Sabin are pleased cowboy roofer Lyndon Pardoe got a prison sentence after duping Susan's elderly parents

More than

TWENTY-FOUR homes are earmarked for former industrial land in Nether-

industrial land in Netherton.

Proposals for the Bradney Chain and Engineering Company site in Quarry Road have been recommended for approval for Dudley planners.

The outline application sets out plans to demolish an existing house and disused industrial building.

The committee are

The committee are minded to give it permission subject to the signing of a legal agreement.

An officer's report said the 'positive' development would help housing growth

Meanwhile, a day centre in Netherton will be converted to a house, after plans were given the green light. The two-storey for-mer Age Concern centre in Cradley Road will be changed to a house with six bedrooms in total.

From Bard to verse at show

SONGS and music from Shakespeare's plays are to be performed in Netherton in May.

Touring company The Night Watch is visiting Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road on May 6 at 7.30pm to present From Bard to Verse.

The performance in period dress will use such instruments as crumhorns, tabors, and bray harps.

Tickets for the Nether-ton performance can be booked on 0750 426 9855.





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Developer signs deal that paves way for 900 homes

Eyesore office block is to be demolished



Former offices for the Inland Revenue, Cavendish House will be demolished under plans for a £50m development

EYESORE office block Cavendish House will be demolished under plans which council bosses say will pave the way for a major £50 million development.

The dilapidated building, which campaigners say has blighted the town centre for years, will be torn down as part of the plans.
A demolition notice, submitted last week, would see the

seven-storey 85,880 sq ft block knocked down.

It was once home to offices for the Inland Revenue, before being boarded up and left empty.

Once cleared, the site off Trindle Road will be redeveloped creating homes, restaurants and shops proposed by commercial property developer Avenbury Dudley Ltd.

Avenbury bought the site for £800,000 at a property auction in London last year. The new Portersfield development could create up to 500 jobs.

A decision over granting permission is pending

Fresh warning to street racers in the Black Country

POLICE have renewed their pledge to tackle street racing after a driver was ailed for speeding on the

jailed for speeding on the Black Country Route.
Tejinder Singh, from Babors Field, Bilston, was spotted tearing along the A463 in a friend's Range Rover at speeds approaching 90mph. The 23-year-old was racing alongside a VW Golf on June 29, 2014 and at one stage, nearly toppled the 4x4 as he tried negotiating a roundabout.

He had denied driving

dangerously, taking part in a race and speeding. But last week he was jailed for five months at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court and disqualified for 18 months

2014, a court injunction has been introduced that buil-'car cruising' - including organising or promoting such events – anywhere in the Black Country.

Chief Inspector Jed White, from Central Mo-torway Police Group, said: "We take street racing or "We take street racing or 'car cruising' very seriously. Our roads are for the pub-lic and their safety should not be jeopardised by selfish drivers intent on using them as a personal drag strip. "We will take action and offenders can expect to be handed heavy fines, risk having their car seized or rotentially end up behind

potentially end up behind bars."

in Coseley has moved closer af-

ter the developer signed a deal with Dudley Council.

The Skelton Group has this week agreed a Section 106 deal with the council, which will pave the way for road improvements needed for the scheme to go ahead.

An amplication for sultiple access

An application for outline access to the site off the Birmingham New Road was approved by council plan-

noted was approved by council plan-ners in December.

More than £100,000 will be spent on road improvements to access the site according to council documents, while £45,600 has been earmarked for two mi-

±40,000 has been earmarked for two minisoccer pitches.

Ward councillor Clem Baugh said the scheme would be a boost for the area. He added: "Obviously we're in favour of this build as we need houses. We also want to

see as many affordable houses as possible.
"I think it can only improve Coseley
East and be beneficial for the area."

By David Cosgrove

According to a council report, Skelton was asked for a 'contribution' of £100,000 towards provision of cycle/pedestrian crossing at the Sedgley Road-Birmingham ew Road junction and directly associated

Traffic

The developer was also asked to stump up £5,000 for a traffic regulation order to prohibit waiting along Bean Road, and new access points to Bean Road and Sedgley Road West.

A further £10,000 will be required from them to find a gen closure at Sangwin

A further 10,000 will be required from them to fund a gap closure at Sangwin Road and Birmingham New Road.

The 66-acre Coseley Park site, once home to the Bean car factory,will be transformed by the development. All existing buildings on the site would be deisting buildings on the site would be demolished - other than the former Bean offices - making way for 925 homes

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Also as part of the plan, a 30,000 sq ft supermarket would be built on the site in Sedgley Road West.

A new junction will be created in Bir-A new junction will be created in Birmingham New Road to allow access to the housing estate. Two new sports pitches and a public open space and play area would be included, replacing the current football pitch.

Outline permission was granted by Dudley's planning committee in Decem-

Plans were initially lodged for an eco park on the site in 2011 with 200 homes, commercial and retail space. Permission for that scheme was granted in 2012, but the project stalled after the development partner ran into commercial difficulties.

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU

The site was subsequently shortlisted as one of the UK's first Housing Zones.

When the scheme was approved, Skelton Group spokesman Abbas Raza "We've provided a well thought out road layout that will keep traffic moving.

Thief jailed after 126th conviction A PROFESSIONAL thief from Birmingham with a staggeringly bad criminal re-

A PROFESSIONAL thief from Birming-ham with a staggeringly bad criminal record of 232 previous convictions has been

cord of 252 previous convictions has been jailed following his latest crime spree.

Kevin Osborne racked up his 125th and 126th thefts when he stole two Dyson vacuum cleaners, Dudley Magistrates Court.

District judge Graham Wilkinson told Osborne, aged 44, that he had a 'truly appelling recent' and that the only way for palling record' and that the only way for him to learn was by being sent to prison.

Tour

The court heard how Osborne's long history of offending had seen him embark on a thieving tour of the country, striking in locations as far apart as Cardiff, Leicester, Suffolk and Grimsby, among many other

Mr Wilkinson said: "His sentences are going to get longer and longer until he chooses to stop stealing.

"He is travelling the country as a professional thief."

Osborne, of Corporation Street, Birming-

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Russians deliver a traditional classic

Swan Lake, Wolverhampton Grand
THE most famous of all ballets was
performed to a packed house at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as The
Russian Ballet State Ballet of Siberia
delivered a solid, very traditional version of Swan Lake.

It was refreshing to hear Tchaikovsky's gorgeous music performed by
the company's own orchestra, under
the baton of Alexander Yudasin, as the
Krasnoyarsk-based troupe are one of

The costumes and sets were a little old fashioned but traditional values

and heritage are part of the Russian and heritage are part of the Russian character. Sergei Bobrov's company are very well drilled, extremely strong and athletic but lacking somewhat in con-

veying emotion.

Even with up to 25 dancers on stage, the performers were so precise in their

risk of a swan pile-up. Mana Kuwabara was excellent

Mana Kuwabara was excellent in the dual role of bewitched swan princess Odette and her wicked alter-ego Odile. With her flashing eyes and lightning fast pirouettes, it was no surprise that her glamorous black swan persona seduced Ivan Karnaukhov's Prince Siegfried.

Leon Burakowski

Ellie will be missed by the fans

Billie Goulding, Barclaycard Arena, B'ham PRINCIPAL support John Newman's Calvin Har-Newman's Calvin Har-ris-infused Blame had the crowd pumped up even be-fore the main attraction. Goulding rose to the stage on a hydraulic platform. With dubious fashion sense of shorts with Doc Marten boots, attention soon turned to her melodic voice but she

to her melodic voice but she appeared to be straining with Holding On For Life, despite a heartfelt delivery. The set was only four songs in when she had the crowd bouncing with another Calvin Harris collaboration, Outside. From here on in, Goulding grew into the performance.

The Hereford-born 29-year-old is planning a self-imposed exile at the end of this Delirium tour. She will be missed. Songs from third album Delirium included a beautiful acoustic version of Devotion and an up tempo Codes, as well as version of Devotion and an up tempo Codes, as well as previous hits Halcyon, Fig-ure Eight and Explosions among them. The encore began with her version of Elton John's Your Song. Mark Shipp

REVIEWS



'We're all in this together' says David Carlyle's mayor, left, with Richard Clews at th

This frenetic farce passes its inspection with flying colours

The Government Inspector,

The Government Inspector,
Birmingham Rep
LET'S hope that this fast-paced farce, directed by the Rep's artistic director Roxana
Silbert, gets a life beyond its short UK tour
- because it was the most eye-wateringly hilarious night in the theatre I have enjoyed
since the all-conquering West End hit One
Man Two Guvnors.

Man Two Guvnors.

Adapted by David Harrower from the 19th century Russian play by Nikolai Gogol, this comedy is about the panic that ensues among corrupt civic leaders of a small Russian town when they learn a Government inspector is secretly visiting them in their

beyond the back of beyond' settlement. Things get even more chaotic when they mistake a boastful waster from the big city

mistake a boastful waster from the big city for the all-important civil servant.
Made as part of the Ramps On The Moon project, the cast of disabled and non-disabled actors created an excellent ensemble.
Highlights of this dark comic treat included David Carlyle's frenetic performance as the mayor, brining to mind both Leonard Rossiter's slippery Rigsby and John Cleese in full-on bonkers Basil mode. As a pompous posh chancer, Robin Morrissey recalled Richard E Grant as vainglorious Withnail.

Leon Burakowski

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during inscared as an eigineer from the early 1970s.

The 67-year-old enjoyed keeping fit but discovered he was losing his breath quite easily in 2014.

After going to the doctors he was told he had fluid on his right lung. He was diagnosed with mesothelioma in September that year, an inquest heard. Despite chemotherapy and radiotherapy, he died on March 12.

Concluding a verdict of death by industrial disease, Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "We have heard how he was a proud and loving family man who will be sadly missed. "As he worked as an engineer in different in different

"As he worked as an engineer in different factories he would have come into contact with asbestos.

"Therefore he died by way of industrial

Asbestos led to More than £8,000 is donated from BBC fund

Grant boost for sports charity that helps children in borough

bled children and young people from

grant from BBC Children in Need.
Pure Sport Foundation will use the windfall to help cover staff and volunteer costs as well as equipment to benefit nearly 250 young people in

equipment to benefit nearly 250 young people in activities promoting health and fitness. The project will provide weekly sports activi-ties such as football, cricket, basketball and ten-nis in a safe environment. There will also be opportunities for families

to get involved in a community festival that promotes healthy living through sport and good nutrition nutrition.

nutrition.

Chief executive Matthew Layton said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive this funding from BBC Children in Need, which will help us empower children and young people who may not feel confident playing sport."

Projects

BBC Children in Need now funds six projects across Dudley with more than £173,000 put to work to benefit young lives in the region. The

year and more funding will be pledged to projects throughout the UK this year.

jects throughout the UK this year.
Speaking of the new grants, Melinda Connelly, BBC Children in Need regional head of the central region said: "We are so delighted to support organisations like Pure Sport Founda-

support organisations have rure sport rounta-tion, whose work will help young people in Dud-ley reach their fullest potential.

"They are a great example of our small grants in action, and really demonstrate how even small sums of money can have a huge impact on young lives.

Arson wastes 17 4,000 hours

FIRE crews spent more than 4,000 hours dealing with deliberately lit blazes across the West Midlands in one year, new fig-

Out of the arson attacks in 2015, 143 were at derelict buildings and a third of those were in one Black Country borough – Sandwell.

- Sandwell.

There was also 696 vehicle fires, 2,132 deliberate rubbish fires and 1,184 deliberate grassland fires.

A statement from the service said: "Arson hurts everybody, needlessly risking the lives of firefighters, costing millions of pounds in damage to property and ruining the environment. The majority of organ pridety can be represented by incompanion of the control of running the environment. In the majority or arson incidents can be prevented by improving safety and security, which need not cost a lot. In 2015 West Midlands Fire Service spent 4000 hours at arson incidents. This is valuable time our fire engines aren't available."

Thursday, March 31

Major event for Morris Minors



Martin Whitmore from the owners' club, left, with Jack Weston of David Manners

MORRIS Minor enthusiasts are invited to

MORKIS Minor enthusiasts are invited to attend to an open day event being held in Oldbury.

Classic cars from the marque will be on display at car sales group David Manners, in Wolverhampton Road, on April 9.

Midland-based Morris Minor clubs are supporting the event in a bid to revive interest in the car across the Black Country.

Restoration

Organisers say they are keen to find owners who have versions of the Morris Minor

that are in need of restoration.

The open day will offer advice and tips on how to get the vehicles on the road again with events running from 1pm to 5pm.

There will also be live music and snacks served up for visitors on the afternoon.

Joy Clarke, who is helping organise the

event, said: "We think that there must be event, said: "We think that there must be people out there who have Morris Minors which are registersed but they aren't on the road. If we could help people dust them off and bring them out it would be great."

An annual Classic Mini Open Evening is also held at the site. Preparations are already taking place for the next event to be held on July 12.

Joy added: "This event grows each year with the aumort of the Partic Mini Club."

Joy added: "This event grows each year with the support of the British Mini Club, last year we ran out of space at our Oldbury premises as we had over 150 classic Minis in attendance."

The Morris Minor made its debut in 1948

at the Earls Court Motor Show in London Designed under the leadership of Sir Alec Issigonis, who went on to design the Mini, more than 1.3 million Morris Minors were manufactured between 1948 and 1972.

Pothole damage hits Litter pick drivers in the pocket

THE poor condition of roads has hit drivers' hard over the last twelve months. Research for Kwik Fit, has found that in the last year British motorists have had to fund repair bills totalling $\pounds 684$ million as a result of damage caused by

potholes.

In the West Midlands 609,000 drivers reported cars suffering pot hole damage with the average cost of repairs at £87.59. The wettest November to January period on record has been a significant factor in the spread of potholes.

Kwik Fit's Roger Griggs said: "We all understand that council budgets are stretched right across the country but this research shows the financial burden being placed upon individual motorists."

on estate

RESIDENTS took part in a litter pick with the help of Dudley's deputy mayor. Members of Caledonia Residents Association in Stourbridge have taken part in several litter picks and are working with Dudley Council to arrange more bins to be provided. Chairman Da-vid Adams said: "The estate was in need of a spring clean and deputy mayor Council-lor Mo Hanif helped."

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The printing presses in action at Queen Street, Wolver hampton, bringing the news to a 1940s readership

Hazel's birthday hope for extensive digital archive

brarian who was responsible for cataloguing thousands of historic photographs celebrated her 90th birthday re-

cently.

And she believes there would be no better present than to see the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star's latest photo archive campaign be successful – so generations to come can learn about the area and enjoy the nostalgia of looking back on iconic moments in time.

Moments in time.

Hazel Jones, who lives in Penn,
worked at the newspaper's HQ in
Queen Street, Wolverhampton for
seven years from when she finished
school in 1942. Her duties included storing and maintaining an archive of photographs that today encompasses than a century.

Now, she is backing the E&S's bid to

digitise the collection, preserving them for generations to come. The plan,

set up with the university of Wolverhampton and WAVE – the museums, galleries and archives of Wolverhampgalleries and archives of Wolverhampton, has been awarded development funding of £59,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The funding is used in order to develop plans to seek a full grant for the project.

Hazel told the Express & Star of her hopes for the bid, and how she realised: "I think it is a really important project. I'd like to see it happen. It's a historical collection which has

It's a historical collection which has been gathered over such a long time. Hopefully the bid is successful and people can enjoy the images for years to come."

The collection has an estimated one and people featured in the pages of the newspaper during the 20th Century. They document around100 years of Wolverhampton life and the history the city and its people collectively

that job, all sorts of people throughout the building, right from the owners down. I was very much a junior member of staff.
"In the early days, a lot of the pho-

"In the early days, a lot of the photographs weren't dated or captioned. It was only as I carried on with the job over the years that I realised how important these photographs could be for people to look back on."

After the Express & Star, Hazel moved down to London to work for Mirror Group newspapers, before returning north to Wolverhampton after retiring.

Both jobs were a dream for Hazel. Both Jobs were a dream for Hazel, who has a keen interest in photography herself. To mark her birthday, she celebrated by having tea with friends. Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "Photographers from the Express & Star have been on hand to

photograph events and communities across the Black Country for more than a century.

"This collection documents the peo-

ple who make this region so great and the history they share. They tell hun-dreds of thousands of stories."



Hazel Jones, the former E&S photo librarian.



Hazel seen visiting the archives at the Express & Star a couple of years ago, with some photos she brought in

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PICTURE snapped at a dance group's farewell party to mark a friend's departure to Jamaica showed more than what vivacious Norma Aston was expecting.

As the well-wishes were made and memorable dancing stories exchanged amongst members of the Uksalsafeet classes at Willenhall's Chart Centre, the

cameras and smart phones did their work. But a single profile shot of Norma captured a different story to all the other photographs taken at that event.

"My teeth had been troublesome for years,

but when I saw the photo and realised just how far forward my top teeth had moved I knew I had to get something done. It was a turning point for me," recalls Norma of Willenhall.

Willenhall.

The youthful 60-something-year-old salsa enthusiast, who attends classes every Saturday to help perfect her technique in this pastime made popular by programmes like Strictly Come Dancing, adds: "There were a number of things that came together which encouraged me to get things sorted.

"I had seen an article in my local paper."

"I had seen an article in my local paper about a woman who had a long-standing problem resolved by Denture Clinic Principal

Steven Burchell [Dip CDT RCS(Eng)] with an

implant retained over-denture."

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and already had in mind an implant denture.

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist,

the well-respected Dr Owain Rees.
"Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it. It was so important for me that I made the correct choice.

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesfield, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Ree (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

to go away and think things through before making a decision."

With referrals in-house. Norma was seen with referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great.

"He explained everything and I embraced

the treatment plan.

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw

Steven. I'd just grown into it.

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorias history. Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."



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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: October 15

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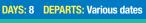
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Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

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Mon to Mon 8 Days 18th, 25th April £249 2nd, 9th,16th May £249 23rd, 30th May £254 6th, 13th, 20th June £254 Friday to Monday 4 Day 1st, 22nd April £129 1st, 22nd April £129 29th April £134 6th,13th,20th May £134 May £149

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POP & ROCK

Definitely Mightbe: Oasis Tribute + Adored: Stone Roses Tribute Sat at 7.30pm, £11 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Years & Years Fri at 6pm, £17.50 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Hazel O'Connor Thu at 7.30pm, £22 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, Call 01902 401211

Sun at 7pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Brainstorm Thu at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB Call 0121 622 8250

Rick Astley Wed at 7pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Lesley Woods Sat at 7pm, The Plapper, Birmingham, Call 0121 236 2421

Brian Fallon & The Crowes Thu at 7pm, The Institute, Birmingham,

Call 0121 643 0428

Sun at 1pm and 6.30pm, £25.70 - £35.70 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Supreme Queen: Tribute Sat at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Fri at 6.30pm, Sat at 6.30pm, Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Big Ups Sat at 7.30pm, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, B5 4EG. Call 0121 632 6756

Sat at 6.30pm. Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Disney On lce



Wednesday to April 10 Genting Arena, B'ham Mickey and Minnie Mouse mark 25 years of Disney On Ice visiting Europe with a sightseeing tour to the worlds of The Lion King, The Little Mermaid, Peter Pan and Frozen. Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Tue at 7pm, The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

The Counterfeit Stones: Rolling Stones Tribute Fri at 9pm, £13 - £15 The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

JAZZ & BLUES

Laurence Jones

Boys Thu at 9.30pm, £5

Call 0121 200 3030

Room 4 The Blues

Sun at 4pm, Free Dog & Doublet, Wolverhampton WV1 1RD

Call 01902 423805

CLASSICAL &

OTHER MUSIC

Call 0121 780 3333

Call 0121 780 3333

Call 0121 622 8250

Krept And Konan Wed at 7pm, £13 The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Sat at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham,

John Wildwood and friends

Open Mic Night with Tony Wall Weds at 8.30pm Swan With Two Necks,

Sun, Swan With Two Necks,

Longdon, WS15 4PN. Call 01543 491570

Rick Ross

B1 1DB

Mark Padmore And Paul Lewis

Perform Schubert's Schwanengesang Sun at 3pm, £9.50 - £35 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.

Dame Mitsuko Uchida In Recital Thu at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £35 Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 3DQ.

John Law's New Congregation

Fri at 5pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Wed at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

King Pleasure And The Biscuit

The Jam House, Birmingham,

COMEDY

Rob Beckett: Mouth Of The

Sat at 8pm, £12 - £14 Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

Russell Kane: Right Man, Wrong Age Fri at 8pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,

ST16 2LT Call 01785 254653

Brian Conley: Alive And Dangerous Sat at 8pm, Theatre Severr Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Jonny Cole: A Black Country Night Out Fri at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,

WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

THEATRE

Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. New Alexandra Theatre Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Annie

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Call 01902 573320

How Lion Became King Of Tinga Tinga Land Fri at 2pm, Sat at 11am, Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Trainspotting Fri at 6pm and 8pm, Sat at 6pm and 8pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Rehearsal For Murder Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

The Rotter's Club Sat at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 70pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.

The Best Thina Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, Arena Theatre Wolverhampton Call 01902 321321

Call 0121 236 4455

Rick Astlev



Wednesday, 7pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham Rick Astley is a top pop talent whose career has Never Given Up for more than 28 years. Join him for all the hits as part of his first headline tour in four years. Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Call 0844 338 5000

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

ART GALLERIES

Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 5 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Ikon Gallery,

Kelly Mark: 108 Leyton Ave Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am -

Into The Woods Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am -5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am

Big Ceramics: Discover Clay On A Monumental Scale Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,

Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am

Andrea Hannon: The House Is Still Named After Him Fri at 10am, Stat at 10am, Mon at 10am, Tue at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Laura Lancaster
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at
10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,
Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall,
WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Jan Vanriet The Music Boy Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,

- 5pm, Wolverhampton Art Gallery,

WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

5pm,
 Barber Institute of Fine Arts,

University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Three Keepers

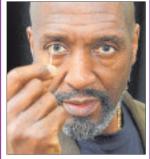
Birmingham, B1 2HS.

Call 0121 248 0708

Into The Woods

Homecoming

Willard Wigan



Friday to Thursday Light House, Wolverhampton The homecoming exhibition of micro-sculptures from Wednesfield's Willard Wigan MBE includes a special tribute to a Black Country legend that shouldn't be missed Visit www.light-house.co.uk

Mary Poppins Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm and 7.30pm, 525.55 - 530.60 Birmingham Hippodrome, BS 4TB Janet Mendelsohn: Varna Road Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am -5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,

lkon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708 Mental Spaces

Fri at 9am - 8.30pm, Sat, Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055 Wendy Ramshaw's Room Of

Dreams
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am -5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free Birmingham Museum and Art

Gallery, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3AX. Call 01630 654444

The Birmingham And Midland Pastel Society: The Art Of

Pastel Society: The Art Of Pastels Fri at 10am - 4pm, Sat at 10am -4pm, Mon at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 4pm, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

OTHER EVENTS

Disney On Ice: Silver Anniversary Celebration Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm, Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Antiques For Everyone Spring

Thu at 11am - 6pm. The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Gadget Show Live 2016 Gadger Sink Elve 2016 Fri at 9am - 6pm, Sat at 9am -6pm, Sun at 9am - 6pm, The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Bedlam Festival 2016 Wed, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP Call 0121 236 4455

Egg-Cellent Easter

Fri at 9.30am - 5pm, Sat at 9.30am - 5pm, Sat at 9.30am - 5pm, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm, Mon at 9.30am - 5pm, Tue at 9.30am - 5pm, Wed at 9.30am - 5pm - 5pm, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Near Tamworth, B78 3TW. Call 0844 472 1960

Family Saturday Sat at 1pm - 4pm, Ikon Gallery, B'ham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Willard Wigan Homecoming Exhibition Fri - Thurs Light House, Wolverhampton.

WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Thu at 10am - 5pm, The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Check out full listings in the ticket in Friday's Express & Star

Lesley's new role as horrid Hannigan



Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan in the hit musical Annie, which is coming to Wolverhampton Grand

BIRDS of a Feather star Lesley Joseph will turn from Essex maneater into gin-soaked American orphanage boss when ever-popular musical An-nie arrives in Wolverhampton next

week.

The actress, who found fame as snob neighbour Dorien in the hit sit-com co-starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, is now taking on the role of Miss Hannigan, the spiteful harridan who attempts to cheat poor

little orphan Annie after she becomes

little orphan Annie after she becomes the favourite orphan of billionaire Daddy Warbucks. Set in 1930s New York, the show features such popular songs as To-morrow, It's the Hard-Knock Life and

Lesley Joseph is relishing her role when the show is staged at the Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday,

April 9. "This is a brand new production

of Annie, and it's very exciting," she says. "I get to be very horrible but I try to make my Miss Hannigan a little bit vulnerable because she's got a rotten life, she's stuck in an orphanage

ten life, she s stuck in an orphanage with no money looking after kids in the middle of The Depression.

"It is, however, a fun family musical and that's what I love – you can bring your granny or your grandchildren, and the little girls all want to be Annia."



Perfect for inspiration

and their BRIT awarding winning 1988 number one hit Perfect, the first in a hat-trick of BRITs for the Scottish singer Eddi Reader has spent the biggest part of her life

singer Eddi Reader has spent the biggest part of her life working as a solo artist.

She is one of Scotland's best loved singers and sang in 2004 at the opening of the Scottish Parliament, and was awarded an MBE for outstanding contributions to the arts in the New Year's honours list of 2006

Reader is back on the road with a solo tour that will reach Birmingham's Glee Club on Sunday, April 3, when she is looking forward to showcasing her favourites from a lifetime's worth of songs.

"I don't have secrets," she says. "I love songs and stories. I am inspired by life around me.

"I love artists like Louis Armstrong. I identify with him.

There are so many brilliant human beings past and present. Kids inspire me most of all, they remind me of living in the moment."

in the moment."

"When I left home, I was full of adventure and wanderlust. I met like-minded people and we all conjoined on a river bank in the South of France. We ate together with the money we all made by presenting our talents in the streets of Avignon, Nimes and Uzes. It taught me about sharing,

listening and selling a song without a microphone.

"I never had a plan. I just aligned myself to songs I liked and they put me in all kinds of situations."

The Final Straw for **Otway and Barrett**

Otway and Barrett
HERE are some of the week's
gig highlights:
Tonight (Thu) veterans John
Otway and Wild Willy Barrett
bring their Final Straw Tour to
Bilston's Robin 2.
Tomorrow Montreal rock
band The Besnard Lakes bring
their Pink Floyd-like soundscapes to the Hare and Hounds
in Kings Heath.
New Yorkers the Big Ups play
Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.
Jim Jones brings his latest
band, The Righteous Mind, for
raw rock at the Hare and Hounds
on Tuesday, then psychedelic
rockers The Vryll Society are at
the same above-the-pub venue
on Wednesday.

Comedy nights spring into action

THE 'Mouth of the South' – AKA comedian Rob Beckett – is

AKA comedian Rob Beckett – is coming to Shropshire and Staffordshire on his spring tour.

The toothy blond comic, known for his appearances on Mock The Week and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is at The Place at Oakengates, Telford, on Saturday before returning to the region at before returning to the region at Stafford Gatehouse on April 16, Burton's Brewhouse Arts Cen-tre on May 19 and at Lichfield Festival on July 4. Humour has a regional fla-

Humour has a regional na-vour at Wolverhampton Grand tomorrow night (Fri) with a Black Country Night Out fea-turing Jonny Cole, The Fizzogs, Dandy and The Ronaldos.

Familiar faces in murder mystery

FOLLOWING his decade-long success with The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, theatre impresario Bill Kenwright has created The Classic Thriller Theatre Company.

Its first production, Rehearsal For Murder, is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9. The cast of familiar faces from TV include Ben Nealon (from Soldier Soldier), Robert Daws (Poldark), Susan Penhaligon (Bouquet of Barbed Robert Daws (Foldark), Susan Penhaligon (Bouquet of Barbed Wire), Robert Duncan (Drop The Dead Donkey), Lucy Dixon (Waterloo Road), Amy Robbins (The Royal) and Steven Pinder (Brookside).



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CHOICE



Patricia Routledge

Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge (Channel 4, 8pm)

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. She discovers what fired the author's imagination and where her love and understanding of animals was born. As an actress, Patricia played Beatrix on stage in the 1990s. In her present role as patron of the Beatrix Potter Society, and with access to rare drawings, letters and artefacts held at the V&A Archive, she discovers the woman behind the myth. Previously seen on

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 MasterChef. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Continent. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.20 Now You See It. 5.50 BBC News.

6.10 Can't Touch This. A pest controller, a "dosey-do" dancer, and a former member of a boy-band are among the 16 contestants battling their the 16 contestants battling their way through a giant obstacle course, in the hopes of laying hands on the goodles within. Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo preside as the competitors tear through the prize-filled gauntet, which culminates in a giant leap of faith that could net them the grand prize. Narrated by Sue Perkins.

The Majes III. The somi finale

The Voice UK. The semi finals arrive, along with the nail-biting tension associated with another round of live performances. The remaining contestants must once master their nerves and take to the stage to determine whether the tutelage they've received at the hands of Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson hands of Will.1am. Ricky Wilson, Paloms Faith and Boy George has paid off. As was the case last week, the identities of these would-be stars progressing through to the grand final will be decided by the viewers at home, who are encouraged to take part in a public vote to determine which act will leaving the contest. Seasually, Connie decides to call off her romance with Jacob, but has second thoughts when he gets trapped in a partially collapsed building. Meanwhile, Ethan shares his bad news with Lily. 5 The National Lottery Live. The

9.55 The National Lottery Live. The winning numbers are revealed. 10 05 BBC News: Weather

10.05 BBC News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day, Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield and Morwich City v Newcastle United at Carrow Road; National Lottery Update.
11.55 Film: Salvage, (2009) A woman searches for her missing daughter when a deadly creature hides out in her neighbourhood. Horror, starring Neve McIntosh.
1.10 Weather for the Week Alpeat 1.15

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15 BBC News.

RRC2

6.30 Film: I Remember Mama. (1948) 8.40 The Women's Football Show. (R) 9.10 Film: A) Islant Turmpet. (1964) 11.00 Natural World. (R) 12.00 Rick Stein: From Venice to Islanbul. (R) 1.00 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 1.30 Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.20 Film: Easter Parade.

Pictures. (R) 2.20 Film: Easter Pärade. (1948) Romantic musical, with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. 4.00 Flog It! (R) 5.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 6.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gets to work on his wildlife garden, ensuring there are plenty of plants in flower for early pollinators. Plus, Carol Klein visits a Shaded yet thriving garden. (R) 6.30 Bake DM: Creme de la Creme

6.30 Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. Tom Kerridge welcomes three Tom Kerridge welcomes three teams of pastry chefs to the first heat of this contest. They are challenged to make more than 100 perfect miniature pastries in three hours for judges Benoti Blin, Cherish Finden and Claire Clark to inspect and taste. Contestants must then reinvent the apple crumble as a showpiece dessert, complete with a towering edible sculbture. (R)

7.30 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Tribes, Predators & me. Goroon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and ather under from desert plants.

how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R all Been Rather Lovely. A portrait of the

John Le Wesurier: It's All seen Rather Lovely. A portrait of the prolific actor's life and career, from his turbulent marriage to Hattie Jacques to his role as Sergeant Wilson in the wartime sitcom Dad's Army. (R)

10.00 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three I Tim: Quartet. (2012) Inree former singers' plans for a fundraising concert for their retirement home are disrupted by the arrival of a famous diva. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. 11.35 Film: The Lady. (2011)

1.40 This Is BBC Two. 5.45 Great British Garden Revival. (R)

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.15
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino
Stories. Share a Story. (R) 7.35 Looped. (R)
7.05 Scarabled: Stranbled: Stranbled: 7.35
Scarabled: Mr Bean: The Animated
Series. (R) 7.50 Scarabled: Horrid
Henry. (R) 8.10 Scarabled: Horrid
Henry. (R) 1.15 The
Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.20 ITV News;
Weather: (R) 2.30 The Chase. (R)
8.35 Planet's Got Talent. (R) 4.00 Flim:
Nanny McPhee. (2005)
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed!
7.20 Ast 2.20 Scarabled!

6.30 New You've Been Framed!

6.30 New You've Been Framed!
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway. The double-act take their weekend showcase away from the confines of the studio, setting up shop on the deck of a cruise ship in Barcelona for their series finale. This week, The Hobbit star James Nesbitt takes the helm as guest announcer, while TV presnality and pon star while TV personality and pop star Peter Andre gets to Singalong Live with his most famous hit, Mysterious Girl. The culprit is finally unveiled in Who Shot Simon Cowell?, and tennis star Simón Cowell?, and tennis star Andy Murray receives a grilling from precocious mini-presenters stitle Ant and Dec. The hosts enter ITV's infamous Cube for one last round of Ant V Dec, and one unsuspecting passenger receives a huge surprise. Plus, a lucky audience member is given a chance to Win the Ads, and the Geordie duo round off the with an all-singing, all-ancing End of the Show Show. Last in the series.

Show Show. Last in the series.

8.30 You're Back in the Room. Former motorcycle racer Carl Fogarty and ex-Towie star Joey Essex Join Phillip Schoffield and illusionist Keith Barry for the hypnotism game show.

9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

12.50 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Freeride World Tour. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 11.00 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Big Bang The Bahrain Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time 4.00pm). **5.30** Speed with Guy Martin. (R)

(Start-time 4.00pm); 5.30 Speed with Guy Martin. (R)

5.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. The documentary series exploring the mysteries behind bizarre climatic conditions continues, this time focusing on the weather's most colourful mysteries. Among the natural marvels highlighted are the top of a black volcano, and the bottom of a "rainbow" river.

8.00 Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees actress Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. Previously seen on More4.

9.00 Film: Identity Thief. (2013) Premiere. A con-woman acquires an executive's credit card numbers, and lives a life of luxury at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track drown the fraudster and bring.

at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track down the fraudster and bring her to justice personally – resulting in them travelling on a disastrous road trip across America together. Comedy, with Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Lone Everseu and

Jason Bateman, Iwellssa McCarthy, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet. 11.15Film: Silver. (1993) A book editor living in an apartment block begins an affair with the owner and is drawn into a series of murders. Erotic briller, starring Sharon Stone and William Baldwin.

Baldwin.

1.10 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly drives to the airport to find Robbie. (R) 3.20 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.15 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. 5.10 Kirstle's Fill Your House for Free. 5.25 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 The Fairly OddParents. 9.30 The Saturday Show OddParents, 9.30 The Saturday Show Live, 11.30 Police Interceptors, (R) 12.25 Police Interceptors, (R) 1.25 Rookies & Raids: A Police Interceptors Special, (R) 2.25 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies, (R) 3.20 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies, (R) 4.20 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies, (B) 5.15 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies, (R)

6.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a navy intelligence commander responsible for tracking the movements of a Venezuelan politician disappears.

movements of a Venezuelan politician disappears. Wo US Navy foremen are murdered at a Naval Faranch health clinic, and with a little help from Brody's mother Olivia, the team discovers the two dead men had been tasked with delivering a heart for a transplant operation. The planned recipient was a skilled Dapra programmer with a rare blood type, but the killers made sure to ruin the procedure by putting a bullet through the organ before making their escape. However, when the heart in question turns out to be a decoy, the team begins to suspect the culprits may have stolen the real one for a criminal with a heart defect from the FBI's most wanted list. Naval crime drama, guest starring Annie Potts.

NCIS. The team uncovers a fraudulent charity that preys on those searching for missing military personnel while investigating the murder of a retired Master Sergeant.

retired Master Sergeant.
8.55 5 New Weekend.
9.00 The Championship: Football
League Tonight. Kelly Cates and
George Riley present extended
highlights of the weekend's top
matches from the Championship,
including Hull City v Bristol City
and Brighton & Hove Albion v
Burnley.

Burnley.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League
Tonight. A round-up of the latest
matches in League One and
League Two, including Burton Albion v Bury, Shrewsbury Town v Wigan Athletic and Mansfield Town v Northampton Town. 10.30 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. (R)

11.25 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R)

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BBC Four 7.00 Treasures of the Indus 8.00 Human Planet 9.00 Follow the Money 11.00 TOTP2: 80s Special 12.00 Boy George and Culture Club: Karma to Calamity 1.00 Top of the Pops: 1981 1.35 Top of the Pops: 1981 2.10 One-Hit Wonders at the BBC 3.10 Sounds of the 70s 3.40 Close

ITV2

11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway 12.35 The Almost Impossible
Gameshow 1.30 Scorpion 2.25 Film: A
Little Princess (1995) 3.25 Fil Daily 3.30
Film: A Little Princess (1995) 4.25
Britain S Gut Film: Apply Feet (2006)
6.30 Fil Daily 6.35 Film: Apply Feet (2006)
6.30 Fil Daily 6.35 Film: Apply Feet (2006)
7.35 Film: The Munmy Returns
(2006) 7.35 Film: The Munmy Returns
(2006) 7.35 Film: The Munmy Returns
(2006) 7.35 Film: The Munmy Returns
(2006) 7.35 Film: The Munmy Returns
Daily 12.45 Film: The Fast and the
Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) 1.45 FYI Daily
1.50 Film: The Fast and the
Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) 1.35 Film: The Fast and the
Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) 2.35 Tinie Tempah:
The Hot Desk 2.45 Teleshopping
ITV3

17V3 Y Jaliy 1.30 Film: Carry On Matron (1972) 2.15 A Touch of Frost 4.25 Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye String: No Murder Case (1977) 6.00 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Inspector Morse 12, 25 Blue Murder 1.55 Doctor in the House 2.20 TTVS Mightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping 17V4

1TV4
3.15 Film: The Rawhide Years (1956)
4.00 Film: Dr No (1962) 5.00 FYI Daily
5.05 Film: Dr No (1982) 6.15 The
Snooker Mavericks 7.15 Film: Police
Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) 8.15
FYI Daily 8.20 Film: Police Academy 3: FYI Daily 8.20 Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) 9.00 Film: Driven to Kill (2009) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film: Driven to Kill (2009) 11.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Long Beach ePrix. 1.30 Hell on Wheels 2.30 Hogan's Heroes 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

1.00 New Girl 1.30 The Goldbergs 3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.00 Film: 17 Again (2009) 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Red (2010) 11.15 Gogglebox 1.25 Rude Tube 2.30 How I Met Your Mother 3.20 Gogglebox 4.15 How I Met Your Mother 4.35 Revenge

1.00 Sister Act (1992) 3.05 Stuart Little (1999) 4.45 Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) 6.45 Adventures in Babysitting (1987) 8.50 Oblivion Interview Special 9.00 Alien (1979) 11.15 The Moth Diaries (2011)

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Dudley

Keeley Hawes

The Durrells

CHOICE

(ITV, 8pm) New series. In 1935. beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproof her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, Josh O'Connor, Milo Parker, Daisy Waterstone, Callum Woodhouse, James Cosmo, Alexis Georgoulis, Yorgos Karamihos, Anna Savva, Max Befort, Ben Hall, Nick Orestis Chaniotakis, Andrew Bicknell, Graham Seed and Hara Ermidi, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My

Family and Other Animals.

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day.
(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Secret Britain. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Points of View. 4.15 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Life in the Air.

Songs of Praise. 5. UIL Life in the Air.

6.00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army
and Me. The presenter teaches
troubled teenagers how to bake,
helps a homeless man who has
finally got a roof over his head to
move, and is persuaded to
perform a rap song.

6.30 BRC News

move, and is persuaded to perform a rap song.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. An episode devoted to cattle, in which Matt Baker meets a farmer who got into the business after a fundraising campaign on social media, who discusses the current state of the beef trade. Helen Sketton visits a tannery using traditional methods to produce leather, and Anita Rani meets an artist who paints on vellum. Adam Henson meets another of this year's Countryfile Farming Hero nominees, and Charlotte Smith asks if large indoor dairy herds are a more efficient way of making milk. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8 00 Antiques Boadshow The team and rarities

9.00 Undercover. New series. Legal drama, starring Sophie Okonedo as the director of Public Prosecutions, who uses her position to bring about justice for a murdered activist. With Adrian Lecture.

10.00 BBC News

10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark
Chapman reviews the latest
Premier League action, featuring
Leicester City v Southampton at
the King Power Stadium and
Manchester United v Everton at
Old Tafford.
11.35 Film: Butterfly on a Wheel.
(2007) 4 couples daubtler is

(2007) A couple's daughter is kidnapped by a criminal who forces them into a course of action that will ruin their lives. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.

RRC2

6.45 This Farming Life. (R) 7.45 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.15 An Island Parish. (R) 8.45 The Beechgrove Garden, 9.15 Countryfile. (R) 10.15 Saturday. Kitchen Best Bites. 11.45 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 Film: Silk Stockings. (1957) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. 2.55 Flog It! (R) 3.30 Figure Skating. 5.00 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R)

6.00 The Secret History of My Family. Documentary charting 200 years of social history by exploring different family trees. (R)

of social history by exploring different family trees. (R)
7.00 Bletchley Park: Code-Breaking's Forgotten Genius. Mathematician and cryptanalyst Gordon Welchman was one of the original elite codebreakers at Bletchley Park and played a crucial part in the Allies defeating Germany. After the war, he moved to America to work at the heart of the computer revolution and was employed by defence contractor the Mitre Corporation, where he was involved in top-secret research. In this programme, academic John Naughton and former CIA analyst Cynthia Storer examine how Welchman's joineering work in the field of traffic analysis led directly to today's secret state surveillance, as reveals ovenen. (R)
8.00 Natural Born Winners. The

8.00 Natural Born Winners. The athletes visit Turkey, where they learn oil wrestling from one of the sport's greatest champions. When they watch a match, they realise it is more dangerous than they hought

9.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels to Papua New Guinea, where he meets a tribe that lives alongside crocodiles and is taught to hunt the predators with his bare hands. Last in the

series.

10.00 Thirteen. Ivy is forced to risk her life and confront her past to save Phoebe, as the Moxam family is plunged into the same horror they faced 13 years previously. Last in the series.

11.00 The People v OJ Simpson:
American Crime Story. Detectives
work closely with the prosecutors
to find flashier evidence for the

11.40 Film: Snow Cake. (2005) 1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.20 Holby City. (R) 3.20 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV. Bottom Knocker Street. 6.15
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.25 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Signed
Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.30 Sooty.
(R) 7.05 Scrambled: Storambled: Toda
Scrambled! Wn Bean: The Animated
Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! Forrid
Henry, (R) 8.10 Scrambled! Horrid
Henry, (R) 8.10 Scrambled! Fen
Titans Gol (R) 9.05 Scrambled! Ten
Monsters. (R) 2.40 Big Star's Little Star.
(R) 3.40 Off Their Rockers. (R) 4.10
Film: The Living Daylights. (1987)
James Bond adventure, starring Timothy
Dalton.
6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.40 ITV News; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather 0.40 II V News; Weatmer.
7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special.
Bradley Walsh presents as DJ
Scott Mills, actress Sunetra
Sarker, Doxer Anthony Ogopa
To yer senter Johnny Ball pit their
wits against ruthless quiz genius
the Chaser in the hope of winning
a potential prize pot worth
The property of the pro thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game clock and race down the game board to the exit without being

8.00 The Durrells. New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other

9.00 Home Fires. New series. The WI of Great Paxford live under a shadow as the Battle of Britain looms. Pat befriends a Czech soldier, but finds independence less enjoyable than expected.

10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10 15 The Olivier Awards 2016 12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.55 Jackpot247. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 For Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix (Start-time 4.00pm). 6.30 Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Special. Ahead of the new Formula 1 season on Channel 4 this weekend, Guy Martin goes head to head with racing legend

this weekend, Guy Martin goes head to head with racing legend David Coulthard in the ultimate test of bike against car With David in a Red Bull RBB Formula 1 car and Guy on his Tyco BMW Superhike, the pair race in a series of challenges including a drag race, a brake test, slation and a full-no circuit race. There's also entertainment in the pit as they compete in physical and mental challenges, testing their fitness and reaction times and exploring the science behind their chosen the science behind their chosen racing machines. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy
West and Prunella Scales'
waterway adventures. Last in the

series.

Indian Summers. The club holds a fashion show, but the glamorous evening turns ugly when a horrifying attack is made on a guest, with the identity of the culprit a mystery. Raiph takes it upon himself to play detective and bring the perpetrator to justice himself, but the truth turns out to be more serified that the code. be more terrible than he could have imagined and threatens to leave his political career in tatters. Elsewhere, Sirene continues to cause chaos in Simla, as she clashes with Cynthia and Wreaks havoc in Ralph and Madeleine's

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) 11.00 Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix Highlights.
12.00 Film: Love You Phillip Morris. (2009) 1.45 Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) 2.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.50 Kirstle's Fill Your House for Free. 5.05 Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshaket: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R)
6.45 Tickety Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and
Quack. (R) 7.05 Make Way for Noddy.
(R) 7.15 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.35 Little
Princess. (R) 7.45 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.55
Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R)
8.20 Ben and Hollys Little Kingdom. (R)
8.35 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.50
Johys Travelling Circus. (R) 9.00 Jelly
Jamm. (R) 9.20 LazyTown. (R) 9.45
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.20 The
Championship: Football League Tonight.
(R) 11.20 Goal Rush: Football League
Tonight. (R) 11.50 The Gadget Show.
12.45 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.45
Greatest Animated Movies. (R) 4.40
Film: Legends of Oz. Dorothy's Return.
(2013) Premiere. Animated farlatsy, with
the voice of Lea Michele.
6.20 Film: Snow White and the Seven

6.20 Film: Snow White and the Seven
Dwarfs. (1937) Premiere. Disney
animated version of the Brothers animated version of the Brothers Grimm story about a princess driven from her home into a sinister forest by her evil stepmother. She is taken in by a group of kindly dwarf miners, but her happiness is threatened when her stepmother returns bearing a poisoned apple. The first ever feature length animated movie, with the voices of Adriana Caselotti and Lucille La Verne.

8.00 Now That's Funny! Featuring failures in 3D and some unlucky beginners. Plus, the latest Stars of the Week.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. Jonathan Ross is enlisted to help two of this week's illusionists, assisting on a card trick and an act involving drawing. Plus, a performer attempts to use mental trickery on Penn and Teller and a fourth act make animals disappea and comes up with a new twist on the classic cup and ball routine. Finally, Penn and Teller recruit a member of the audience for a knife-throwing act.

knife-throwing act.

10.00 Film: Carrie. (2013) Premiere. A teenage girl finally snaps and uses her psychic powers to average herself on the buillies who tormented her. Horror remake, starring Chioe Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore.

12.00 Johnstone's Paint Trophy Football.
12.55 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Tube: Going Underground. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.50 Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Sir Peter Maxwell Davies: Master and Maverick 8.00 Pappano's Classical Voices 9.00 A Fanatic Heart. Geldof on Yeats 10.40 Film: Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas (2013)
12.35 Dan Cruickshank: Resurrecting History – Warsaw 1.35 Sounds of the 70s 2.05 A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats
3.45 Classical Results (2015)

ITV2

11.30 Take Me Out 12.45 Celebrity
Catchphrase 1.45 Film: Peter Pan (2003)
2.45 F/ID Jay 5.05 Film: Peter Pan (2003)
2.45 F/ID Jay 5.05 Film: Peter Pan (2003)
3.55 Firitain's Got More Talent:
Top 10 Animal Acts 4.55 Ant & Bec's
Saturday Night Takeaway 6.25 Film: King
Kong (2005) 7.25 F/ID Jay 7.30 Film: King
Kong (2005) 7.25 F/ID Jay 7.30 Film:
King Kong (2005) American Dadi
12.55 The Cleveland Show 1.50 @
elevenish 2.15 Ariana Grande: The Hot
Desk 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2
Nightscreen

1793

11.20 Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High ID Murder Case (1977) 12.50 A
Touch of Frost 5.00 Midsoner Murders
7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 By Royal
Appointment 9.00 Great Estates of
Scotland 10.15 Film: The American
President (1995) 11.15 FYI Daily 11.20
Film: The American President (1995)
12.35 The Kindness of Strangers 2.05
Wycliffe 3.00 May the Best House Win
4.40 On the Buses 5.35 Judge Judy 5.55
ITV3 Nightscreen ITV3 Nightscreer

ITV4
6.15 The Goodwood Members Meeting
7.15 Football's Greatest: George Best
7.30 Pawn Stars 8.00 Premiership
Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Police Academy
(1984) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film:
Driven to Kill (2009) 12.05 Film:
Driven to Kill (2009) 12.05 FYI Daily
12.10 Film: Driven to Kill (2009) 1.10
The Sweeney 2.05 Ax Men 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
2.55 Toy Story Toons 3.25 Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade 3.55 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 4.09 Rude(ish) Tube 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Rude Tube 12.05 The Aliens 1.10 The 100 2.10 Marvel's Agents of SHELD 10.05 Aliens 1.10 The 100 2.55 Rules of Engagement 3.40 Hollyoaks

11.00 Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) 1.00 Sunshine on Leith (2013) 3.05 Stuart Little 2 (2002) 4.40 Home Alone (1990) 6.45 Grease 2 (1982) 9.00 Red 2 (2013)



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FILM CHOICES

Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged members of the Danville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing – an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental stitution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit – and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)

TUESDAY Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)



The Charge of the Light Brigade, BBC2, 1.50pm A British major and his brother stationed in India during the Crimean War become rivals when they fall in love with the same woman. An allied local ruler betrays the British, carrying out a massacre of civilians and prompting the major to swear revenge on him - ultimately leading a suicidal attack on an enemy artillery position. Fact-based drama, starring Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland and Nigel Bruce.

THURSDAY

Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.25pm
A divorcee suspects a nursery is mistreating her young daughter. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2014)

The Living Daylights, ITV, 10.40pm

James Bond crosses the continents to help a KGB agent to defect to the West. While protecting him from an unknown assassin, the super-spy is drawn into the world of arms dealing. Action adventure, with Timothy Dalton making his debut appearance as 007, alongside Maryam d'Abo, Joe Don Baker and Art

Marcella faces a deadly blast from the past

n 2014, the Swedish-Danish crime thriller The Bridge began a run on BBC Four.

Fans of the series may be interested to know that its creator, Hans Rosenfeldt, is also the man behind this new drama, his first British project.

"Turin is a city in the north of Italy that I don't know much about, but if was there that Marcella was born," reveals Rosenfeldt. "I was there to talk about The Bridge, and my thoughts on the remakes that have been made. It's there that I met TV executive Nicola Larder.

"Later, at a very nice dinner, she Eater, at a very frice diffier, she said she had an idea about a police series set in London, where we meet the protagonist at her lowest ebb, having just been left by her husband, with her kids away at boarding school and a serial killer from the past reappearing. Would I be interested in developing it further? The answer to that, as you've probably guessed, was yes."

Of course, cops on the edge aren't

exactly a rarity – in fact, millions of us have recently been gripped by the second series of Happy Valley, in which Sarah Lancashire played Catherine Cawood, a police sergeant still somehow picking herself up and carrying on with her life despite being repeatedly hit by its slings and arrows, including a psychopath determined to grind her down from inside his prison cell.

Here, the action takes place in London rather than West Yorkshire, and focuses on Marcella Backland, played by Anna Friel.

When we first meet her, Marcella is heartbroken by the break-up of her marriage and needs a new purpose. As a result, she returns to the police career she gave up 10 years previously, and throws herself into her work with the Mets Murder Squad to stop herself falling apart.

Her first case involves a serial killer whose raison d'etre appears to be the same of a murderer she was trying to find in 2005. Has he started a new killing spree, or have the crimes been committed by a copycat? Arina Frier was the only actiess i had in my head," says Larder. "I'd worked with her briefly and I knew she was this incredibly powerful method actress. And I'd missed her she hasn't been in the UK for a while. She's the right age for this character and emotionally she just lets herself go into a part.

"Thankfully her first meeting with us went really well. I felt she had plugged herself into mine and Hans's bodies and she understood this character from the inside out."

Larder also claims that it still "feels fresh" to have a female lead character in a major drama series, despite many examples of that happening, including in the aforementioned Happy Valley, as well as the likes of Scott and Bailey and, of course, the mighty Prime Suspect. Larder also claims that it still "feels

She also neglects to mention the Nordic flavour brought to the BBC's River by Stellan Skarsgard, but we'll forgive her these omissions if Marcella lives up to its promise.



Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Neighbours: Hotel Death Trap Channel 5, 5,30pm

It's all kicking off in Erinsborough this week! Over the years viewers have witnessed some extraordinary (and, occasionally, unbelievable moments) during the long-running soap, but those in the know claim that this may top the lot - we're certainly not used to the usually family friendly programme requiring a post-watershed slot. It all begins with everything seemingly ticking over as normal at the Lassiter's leisure complex. Everyone is going about their business, unaware that somebody is tampering with its boiler. As a variety of meetings and assignations get under way including a secret rendezvous, surprise encounters and the arrival of two mystery men – the boiler explodes, leaving some well-known faces buried and trapped beneath the resulting debris. But who will survive the carnage?

TUESDAY Murdered By My Father

BBC1, 10.45pm In 2014, BBC Three brought us the award-winning one-off drama Murdered By My Boyfriend, which explored the issues of domestic abuse. Now the channel is bringing us this powerful drama. which is airing on TV after receiving its debut online, and tackles the controversial subject of 'honour violence' in Britain. Kiran Sonia Sawar stars as teenager Salma, whose widowed father Shahzad (Adeel Akhtar) is determined to find her a suitable husband, and thinks he has picked one in the shape of Haroon (Salman Akhtar). However, Salma has fallen for Imi (Mawaan Rizwan), who urges her to leave her family and marriage arrangements behind in favour of a new life. When Haroon confronts Shahzad about his daughter's actions, the scene is set for more than one tragedy...

WEDNESDAY The People Next Door

Channel 4, 9pm
The award-winning team behind Cyberbully and Blackout are back with another thought-provoking one-off drama that raises some difficult questions. It begins with a young middle-class couple being interviewed by the police following an altercation with their neighbours. A series of flashbacks reveal that parents-to be Gemma (Joanna Horton) and Richard (Happy Valley's Karl

Davies) moved into their home two months ago and, after hearing sounds of rows and violence through the wall, they begin to suspect that one the neighbours' children is at risk of abuse. When the authorities fail to intervene, Gemma and Richard use increasingly elaborate

surveillance methods to find out what is really happening next door. Are their intrusive actions justified if it means protecting a child, or are the snooping couple the real neighbours from hell?

THURSDAY Millionaires' Mansions Channel 4, 8pm New series. London's housing

narket is booming, thanks to foreign investors buying property worth more than £100 billion – and as a result the luxury interior design industry is flourishing. This

Murdered By My Father, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

prestigious designers working for some of the capital's wealthiest clients. They include Joanna Wood, who has been designing houses for royal families and Hollywood film stars for 30 years, and Brian Wade, who has spent the past four-and-a-half vears designing a seven-storey Knightsbridge townhouse, with furniture including a stingray-skin coffee table and a chandelier made from Hyde Park leaves dipped in gold.

FRIDAY

Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers BBC2, 7.30pm
There will be no room for complacency for World

Cup semi-finalists England tonight as they face Belgium in their latest Euro 2017 Qualifier at Rotherham United's New York Stadium. After the 8-0 drubbing of Estonia in Tallinn, Mark Sampson's Lionesses only just squeezed through their last qualifier 1-0 at home to Bosnia & Herzegovina, thanks to a Jill Scott winner. And they are also looking to bounce back after failing to win any of their three games against Germany, USA and France in last month's inaugural SheBelieves Cup in America. Presenter Jacqui Oatley is joined in the studio by England internationals Kelly Smith and Rachel Brown-Finnis, while commentary is provided by Jonathan Pearce and Sue Smith.

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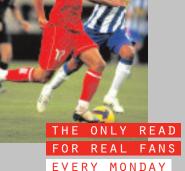
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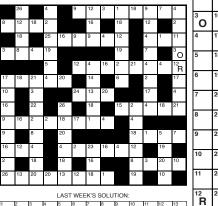
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BRAIN GYM

No.371

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off. o



M W R H Y V X T Q G

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- 6. Be understanding and get along somehow (4.3)
- 7. In the main he gets down to his work (5)
- 9. Match label (5)
- 10. Get together for aettina in the
- harvest? (7) 12. Having no saving
- 14. Not a difficult thing to eat? (5.2.4)
- 18. His money may be well-earned! (7)
- 19. One has no right to take things so (5)
- 21. About enough for one shot (5) 22. Succeed in losing
- one's balance? (4.3)

- 1. Obtain part of South Africa by birth? (5) 2. Such action will be involuntary (6)
- 3. Fruit brought up in a container (3)
- 4. A case of perhaps private possessions? (3-3)
- 5. It's beastly being a long time in one occupation (7) 8. He's not free, yet
- may have time! (7) 11. Soldier on a horse or military ship (7)
- 13. Acid criticism (7)
- 15. Stop a letter giving settlement (6)
- 16. Lot of Arabs (6)
- 17. The general idea in 20. He has nothing
- inside for gardeners (3)

Quick Clues

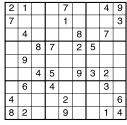
Across

- 6. Harmed (7) 7. Wed (5)
- 9. To object (5)
- 10. Malady (7)
- 12. Secret (11)
- 14. Cows (11)
- 18. Hard-hearted (7) 19. Talk (5)
- 21. Trivial (5)
- - 22. Bill (7)

Down

- 1. Come in (5)
- 2 Reciprocal (6)
- 3. Lair (3)
- 4. Mourn (6) 5. Gift (7)
- 8. Generous (7)
- 11. Old-fashioned (7)
- 13. Incensed (7)
- 15. Creeks (6) 16. Use (6)
- 17. Haggard (5) 20. Perform (3)

Sudoku



every column every row and boxes contain all the digits

SOLUTIONS >								
	9	4	6	8	1	3	7	5
	7	8	2	6	9	5	4	3
	5	3	1	7	2	4	9	8
3	4	9	3	1	6	8	5	2
S	8	2	7	3	5	9	6	1
	6	1	5	4	7	2	3	9
	2	6	9	5	4	1	8	7
	1	7	8	9	3	6	2	4
	3	5	4	2	8	7	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Head-walter, 7 Orbit: 8
Inertia; 10 Not right; 11 Pays; 13 Feeler; 15
Beings; 17 Undo; 18 Lukewarm; 21 Threats;
22 Eaten; 23 Denigrated. Down: 1 Habit;
22 Eaten; 23 Denigrated. Down: 1 Habit;
24 Tatianed; 34 Weight; 4 Hern; 5 Entrain; 6
Found fault; 9 Assessment; 12 Tenement; 14
Fondorse; 16 Purser; 19 Acted; 20 Taxi. OUICK
- Across: 1 Foreboding; 7 Begin; 8 Learner;
10 Intruder; 11 Flag; 13 Abduct; 15 Lessen;
17 Oust; 18 Defender; 21 Younger; 22 About;
23 Tendemess. Down: 1 Fight; 2 Fenounce;
3 Billet; 4 Drab; 5 Norplus; 6 Obligatory; 9
Regenerate; 12 Venerate; 14 Dispute, 16 Bearer;
19 Dross; 20 Aged.

Quiz

Who missed the last penalty of World Cup 94?

14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 1 | C | S | L | O | U | D | B | Z | E | J | P | N

- Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination?
- Which animal has red, grey and Arctic
- Of what nationality is golfer Nick Price? In which river are the Thousand Islands?
- Who was the father-in-law of Moses?
- 7. Which poet's middle name was
- 8. Which Dutch queen's husband was Prince Bernhard?
- 9. Which French philosopher coined the term 'property is theft'?
- 10. To which family does the okapi belong?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 WWI: 2 Denmark and Norway:

- 3 Lothian; 4 The Lion King;
- 5 Human Immunodeficiency Virus:
- 6 Napoleon Bonaparte; 7 Month; 8 Danish;
- 9 John Prescott: 10 Romansch.
- Niner: ABUSIVELY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve

gives a garment, gives another garment, 581495 967895 gives a third garment.

the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4		_	1		i -	-	ľ	l -	ľ
Ų									

IVE NAPPY! Slimming World

Rowley Regis Dudley Golf Club, Turners Hill From 28th December, 7pm Tel Meryl: 07702 237885

Sedgley St Chads & All Saints Social Club Uigh Holborn, Dudley Road From 4th April 5pm and 7pm Tel: Gaz 07517 675787

Wolaston The Ridge Primary School Gregory Road 7pm Tel Laura: 07999 521993

Wordsley Richardson Hall

Lawnswood Road 5pm & 7pm Tel lan : 07970 147592 Amblecote

Amb**l**ecote C Brette**ll** Lane ote Christian Centre.

9.30am Te**l**: 07999 521993 Netherton Cole Street Methodist Church Cole Strett 5.30pm and 7pm Tel Heather: 07729 105659

Thorns Primary School Thorns Road, Quarry Bank 5pm and 7pm Te**l** Lisa: 07986 673899

TUESDAY Gornal Wood

Himley Road Methodist Church Himley Road (Large Car Park at rear via chapel walk) 9.30am Tel Becki: 07986 407934

ie UK's favourite

way to

Norton Gig Mill Primary School The Broadway 7pm Tel: kelly 07857 244854

Wordsley Richardson Hall Lawnswood Road 10am Tel lan: 07970147592

Woodsetton Bramford Primary School Park Road 6.00pm and 7.45pm Tel Louise: 07967 624573

Gornal
Zoar Methodist Church
Abbey Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue: 01384 211425
Wollaston
St James C of E Primary School
Kingsway 7pm

Kingsway 7pm Te**l** Jo : 07725 987340

Netherton Cole Street Methodist Church Cole Street 9.30am Tel Heather: 07729 105659

Rowley Regis Rowley Regis Disability Centre 26 Rowley Village 5.30pm and

7.30pm Tel Kenton : 07982 408088 Dudley (Wrensnest)
Wrensnest Community Centre
Summer Road 10am
Tel Louise: 07967 624573

Norton The Scout Hut Kempton Way off Heath Farm Road

9.30am Tel Caroline : 01562 888315 Amblecote Peters Hill Primary School

Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm Tel Lynne: 01384 455427 Bromley / Kingswinford Dingle Community Centre Dingle Community Centre Madeley Road 5 pm & 7 pm Tel Diane: 07974 657589

Kingswinford

British Legion Summerhill Road 3.30pm

5pm and 6.30pm Tel Ann : 07787 186259

Brockmoor

Brockmoor Community Centre Pensnett Road 9 30am and 11 30am Tel lan : 01384 827999

Kinver Brindlev Heath Junior School

Enville Road 7pm Tel John: 01384 423616 Amblecote

Amblecote Primary School

School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm Tel Caroline : 01562 888315 Netherton

Hill Crest School and Community College Simms Lane 7pm Tel Heather: 07729 105659 Tividale
St Michaels Church
Tividale Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Kenton: 07982 408088

Old Hill

Holy Trinity Church Halesowen Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm Tel Sarah: 07815 071982

Stourbridge / Oldswinford St Marys Church Hall Rectory Road 4pm 5.30pm and 7.30pm Tel Kerry: 01384 833812

Brierley Hill
Withymoore Primary School
Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne: 01384 455427
Lower Gornal
The Straits Primary School
Milton Cresant 7pm
Tel Marion: 07887 594344

Upper Gornal upper Gornal
Upper Gornal Methodist Church
Spills Meadow off Kent Street

Tel Lynn : 07963 539384 **Dudley / Upper Gornal** Bishop Milner RC School Burton Road 7pm Tel Sue: 01902 882323

THURSDAY

Pensnett
Community Centre, High Street
From 7th April
Tel: Gill 01384 830929

Dudley Central Methodist Church Cross Street 5pm and 7pm Tel:Sarah 07837 950797

Stourbridge St Thomas Church Hall Market Street 10am Tel John : 01384 423616 Sedgley / Upper Gornal

St Chads and all Saints Social Club High Holborn, Dudley Road 5pm and 7pm Tel Sue: 01902 882323

Brierley Hill Nine Locks Community Centre Hill Street 9.15am Tel Jill : 01384 830929 Dudley Central Methodist Church

Hawbush Brierley Hill Oakfield Centre Brettell Lane 5pm and 7pm Tel John: 01384 423616

Stourbridge Greenfield Primary School

Hill Street 5.30pm and 7.30pm Tel Marie : 01384 893001

FRIDAY Sedgley Sedgley Community Centre, Ladies Walk (Access via the Priory) 9.30 am Tel Gareth: 07517 675787

Stourbridge The Bonded Warehouse

Canal Street 9.30am Tel Jo: 07725 987340 Kingswinford St Marys Church Hall

The Villiage 8.30am and 10.30am Tel Sue : 07825 354224 Rowley Regis Rowley Regis Disability Centre

26 Rowley Village 9.30am Tel Kenton : 07982 408088

SATURDAY

Oldbury Portway Lifestyle Centre Newbury Lane 9am and 11am Tel Kenton: 07982 408088



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Lower Gornal Roberts Primary School Robert Street 8.30am and 10.30am Tel Sarah : 07837 950797

Tel Sarah : 07837 950797 **Hawbush / Brierley Hill** Oakfield Community Centre Brettell Lane 7.30am, 8.30am and 11.15am Tel Jo : 07725 987340









Can't go wrong - the steak and six (count them) chips

Tasty - goat's cheese and ricotta ravioli

It's fine dining at Moat House but you may have to push the boat out

house in a quaint rural Staffordshire village, family-run restaurant The Moat House, in Acton Trussell, is a beautiful venue.

It's set in splendid surroundings - complete with a moat - and is the per-

competee win a most - and is the perfect destination for an indulgent treat. Its award-winning Orangery Restaurant is renowned for superior quality, excellent service and stunning presentation; but also its pricey menu but as the saying goes, you

get what you pay for.

The tasting menu, for example, costs £60 each – or £90 each with paired wines carefully selected to complement every dish. Its gournet menu, costs £45 per head, for a four-course meal, complete with amusebouche, fresh bread, vegetable panache, fil-ter coffee and petit fours.

The eatery does, however, now have a 'fixed price menu', with three courses priced at £24 between 6.30-7.30pm, Sunday to Friday, making this high-end venue far more affordable for a regular trip.

The food, needless to say, remains every bit as high-quality and delicious as we'd hoped – but more on that later.

My partner and I visited The Moat House on a rainy Thursday evening after a long day at work and, though the pair of us were timed we were immediately out at ease by

tired we were immediately put at ease by the attentive staff in the restaurant, com-

the attentive staff in the restaurant, complete with sparkling chandeliers and crisp, white tablecloths.

It is often the case that fixed price menus are limited to few options, but The Moat House's list was packed with delicious foods – from pig cheek and cured mackerel

sirloin steak and cod in browned butter for mains. After studying the options, my other half opted for the oriental pig cheek for a starter, and I for the goat's cheese and ricotta ravioli.

My ravioli was cheesy, tender and delicious. The oriental pig cheek, meanwhile, was tender and meaty, marinated in a tasty coating.

Treated

Before the starters arrived, we were treated to a basket of seeded and non-seeded bread, followed by a shot glass of colory and garlie supp.

seeded bread, followed by a snot glass of celery and garlic soup.

Due to my desire to try outlandish foods

and my partner's tendency to stick to
what he knows – we rarely end up eating
the same meals when dining out, but this time around there was no doubt about what

had no gristle and was cooked as we'd re quested, it was – for all intents and pur-poses – a fairly average steak and chips. The dish came with a side of buttery vegetables

and six stacked chips.

As it happened, we were full, but the sweets looked too tempting, so we settled for the Valrhona dulce chocolate panna cotta and the banana and caramel arctic roll. And, my goodness, they were the best desserts I think I've ever had the delight of trying.

Considering we visited the restaurant on

a Thursday – and by 9pm there was barely a table left – I would certainly recommend booking in advance, especially at weekends. An incredible meal, with superb pres-

entation, in a wonderful setting with reasonably attentive service.







Family semi has been improved and extended

semi-detached house in High Haden Crescent, Cradley Heath, includes a large through lounge/

includes a large through lounge/
dining room with a log burner.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at
£190,000. With a garage, driveway, gas
central heating, double glazing, it also has
a long rear garden with patios and a lawn.

It has a porch, a reception hall with under-stairs cupboard, large lounge/dining
room with a bay window and patio doors to
the rear, extended fitted kitchen with fitted
oven and hob with cooker hood over, three
good-sized bedrooms and a bathroom with a
corner bath with shower over. corner bath with shower over. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or

visit www.hickshadley.com



Apartment could be a buy-to-let opportunity



one bedroom, this pur-pose-built apartment in Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn, Road, is for sale through Hayden Estates at

£108,500.
An ideal buy to let property, close to the town centre, it has allocated parking, double glazing and electric double glazing and electric heating, a reception hall with Amtico flooring, a kitchen with part wall tiling, an inset four ring electric hob unit having a concealed extractor fan over. a built-in electric oven, space for white goods, ceiling spot lights and goods, ceimig spot rights and very attractive modern Am-tico flooring, a lounge with Amtico flooring and a bath-room with spot lights and a bath with a shower over and shower screen.

Contact Hayden Estates on 01299 405062 or visit







Charming cottage has § delightful courtyard



close in a courtyard setting, Trow Cottage, 30 Lax Lane, Bewdley, also

Cottage, 30 Lax Lane, Bewdley, also has a garage.

It is now for sale through Allan Morris at a reduced price of £199,000 with no chain.

It has an attractive front stable door, entrance hall, lounge, a dining kitchen with a washing machine, dishwasher, fridge, freezer and fitted electric oven with hob over.

There is a stable-type door to the rear patio and a courtyard area, first floor bathroom with a white suite, Jack 'n' Jill bathroom, two bedrooms (one previously two singles).

The delightful courtyard setting to the rear is an enclosed haven with mature plants and shrubs, lawns, communal seating area and paved pathways. There is also a patio area and lawn.

pathways. There is also a patio area and lawn.

For further information contact Allan Morris on 01299 400555 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk





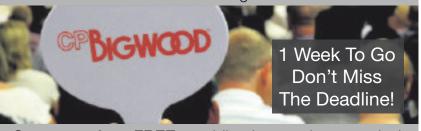




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Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



Stourbridge, Greenfinch Road

DELIGHTFUL DETACHED BUNGALOW RESIDENCE in a prime address with gas central heating and double glazing: Hall, Large Sitting Room, Dining Room, CREAM SHAKER KITCHEN, Two Bedrooms and Contemporary Shower Room. Drive, Garage, Garden to Dingle. EPC D.



KINGSWINFORD, Dunlin Close

New price

Superbly located at the head of this small exclusive cul-de-sac, just off Ploverdale Crescent, upon highly sought after 'Sandpipers', this DISTINCTIVE & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an impressively spacious and expensively appointed FOUR BEDROOM layout with an EN-SUITE, enhanced by a CONSERVATORY, plus a driveway, GARAGE and a professionally landscaped garden. EPC D

£239,500

£166,950



WOLVERHAMPTON, Rodway Close, Ettingshall Park

SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in short cul- de-sac with views towards fields comprising; hall, 22ft through living/dining room, CONSERVATORY, kitchen, laundry, separate toilet, small study/office; gallery landing, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Parking, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £194,950

£159.950



PENSNETT, Swan Street

This STUNNING NEW BUILD PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, Attractive Lounge, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS (Master Bedroom with En-Suite), Well Appointed House Bathroom, Large Driveway & Substantial Rear Garden. EPC: B



PENSNETT, Hollies Street

This EXTENDED & SPACIOUS, THREE / FOUR BEDROOM, LINK DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Bedroom 4 / 2nd Reception Room, Guests W.C., Three First Floor Bedrooms, White Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Private Garden. EPC:



QUARRY BANK, 21 Stour Hill

This TRADITIONAL & CHARMING, DETACHED COTTAGE offers a RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A UNIQUE FAMILY PROPERTY. Comprising; Dining Room, Attractive Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Delightful Conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Rear Gardens. EPC F

£169,950

£249.950



DUDLEY WOOD, Quarry Road

This THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED & ENLARGED, THREE BEDROOM HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Bay Fronted Lounge, DELIGHTFUL KITCHEN diner, CONSERVATORY, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Contemporary Shower Room, Attic Space, Driveway & Pretty Garden. EPC:



WOODSETTON, Flavell Street

A well presented, extended traditional semi-detached property situated in sought after area of Woodsetton. This good size family home benefits from entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Greenhill Road

Spacious, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, semi detached. Accommodation includes; reception hall, through living/dining room, refitted breakfast kitchen, utility room, toilet. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom with stylish white suite. Potential garage (kerb not dropped) good sized secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY

£149,950

Offers in the region of £145,000

Offers in the region of £134,950

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 31, 2016

Taylors

the property professionals

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DUDLEY, Yarner Close, Milking Bank

Situated at head of cul-de-sac with delightful garden! Meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached briefly comprising: porch, hall, store, 164*lounge, dining room, conservatory, refitted breakfast kitchen, utility room, cloaks. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, three further bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom. Garage, landscaped garden with decking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

£129.950



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Exciting development of 11 plots under construction by Woodbourne Group of gas centrally heated & double glazed detached BUNGALOWS/dormer bungalows within walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £264,500, First Phase scheduled for April. SAP: TBA.



WOODSETTON, High Arcal Drive

ENVIABLY SITUATED at head of favoured cul-de-sac with tremendous distant views and being EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached family home. The meticulously maintained accommodation includes; entrance vestibule, traditional reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 185° lounge, separate dining room with double doors out to the garden, breakfast kitchen. Three generous bedrooms (all with units), bathroom with white suite. Part boarded loft, LENGTHY 33′ GARAGE, delightful sheltered well maintained rear garden with further brick store. EPC:T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £200,000

Offers in the region of £275,000



DUDLEY WOOD, Dudley Wood Road

This TASTEFULLY DECORATED & RATHER DECEPTIVE, TWO BEDROOM HOME comprises: Porch, Well Decorated Through Lounge with Dining Area, Modern Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS both with their own WELL APPOINTED EN-SUITES, Driveway & Pleasant Garden. EPC:



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

Exceptionally well presented residence situated in this well sought after area of Lower Gornal with OPEN ASPECT VIEWS to rear. This family home, ideal for first-time buyers benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDRODMS, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden and drive to front. Viewing essential to fully appreciate this fantastic property. EPC: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,950



GORNAL WOOD Bank Road

WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE Centrally heated, double glazed semi requiring some upgrading; comprising; hall, cloakroom, kitchen, living/dining room, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to main), bathroom, Parking, garden (in need of attention). EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £130,000 NOW £125,000



PENSNETT, Hamble Close

PRICES FROM £218,500

his BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & RATHER SUBSTANTIAL, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely through Lounge with Dining Area, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, TWO FANTASTIG EDEROOMS, WELL APPOINTED BATHROOM, GARAGE, Pleasant Garden. EPC:



COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Outstanding, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed en'starter home' with panoramic distant views briefly comprising;
entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of
beech effect units, stitting rom/snug five bedrooms, bathroom.
Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers around £120.000



SEDGLEY, Dormston House, Dudley Street

A GROUND FLOOR gas centrally heated and double glazed two before off at in gate development within awkling in distance of Seedig in Self-gard and all associated until making in distance of Seedig in Ground in a self-gard and all associated until making in the self-gard and all associated accommodating reduced accommodating reduced accommodating reduced accommodating with the self-gard in the se



HOLLY HALL, Woodside Road

This EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Well Appointed Wet Room, Three Generous First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroon LARGE GARDEN with ADDITIONAL LAND EXTENDING TO THE SIDE. EPC C



DUDLEY, Garrick Close, "Earls Keep"

GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT . Within walking distance of many amenities and representing a RARC OPPORTUNITY a gas centrally heated & double glazed ground floor apartment (with 'entry phone' style access to communal parts) comprising; central reception half, two bedrooms (principle bedroom with shower room en suite), lounge, dining section, kirchen, bathroom Extensive command ground/sallocated parking. EPCC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,750



£123.500

£106.950

NETHERTON, Wharf Mews

THIS BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT has lovely views of the nearby CANAL and comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Modern Kitchen, Two Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), Bathroom, Allocated/Visitor Parking, Pretty Communal Grounds.



NETHERTON, Kilburn Place

This VERY WELL ARRANGED & DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, END TERRACE HOME comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Pleasant Lounge, WELL ETITED MODERN KITCHEN DING. THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Attractive Driveway & Rear Garden. EPC:

Offers in the region of £120,000



Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, This TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME would ideally suit FIRST TIME BUYERS OF BUY-TO-LET INVESTORS & comprises Porch, Hall, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens. FPC 1



BROCKMOOR, Limes Avenue

This EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED & DELIGHTFULLY FURNISHED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Contemporary Loun Modern Kitchen, Guests cloakroom, Two / Three First Floor Bedrooms, Immaculate White Suite Bathroom, Driveway & HI



A deceptively spacious family home, this intermediate property is situated in a popular cut-de-sac location in close proximity to the town centre. Generously proportioned it benefits from; porch, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, gardens to front & rear, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Occupation Street

Well maintained end of terraced property which offers potential and is an ideal starter home. It is situated in the sought after area of Dudley and benefits from uput double glazing, gas central heating, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, through-lounge, kitchen, fitted shower room, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front and detached garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC-D. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Daffodil Close, High Arcal

Significantly improved, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) \$UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached overlooking fields to when rear. Rare opportunity to purchase under Housing Association shared ownership initiative whereby 50% SHARE is available. comprising hallway, store, L shape i lving room, kitchen. Two double bedrooms, bathroom, garden, block paved front drive 50% SHARE is available at offers a cound £70,000. PECC SEDGLEY

£104,950

£119,950

Offers in ther region of £99,950

£105,000

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09/09 Audi A3 1.8 TFSi Convertible 50k, Blue, Alloys, E/Hood, E/Windows, Air con, CD Player £8995 / £46 Per Week

10/10 Saab 9-3 Linear SE Cabriolet TID 1.9 Diese ONE OWNER* Black, Cream Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Hood, E/Windows :7995 / £42 Per Week

09/09 Mini Cooper I.6 Convertible 35k, White with Black Hood, Alloys, CD, E/Windows, E/Hood :7995 / £42 Per Week

08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <u> 26995 / £36 Per Week</u>

09/59 Mini Cooper Diesel 52k, Black with Chequered Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows

06/56 Toyota Rav-4 XT4 D-4D 2.2 Diesel 4WD

5dr, 75k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, E/Sunroof £6795 / £35 Per Week

example: 05/05 Nissan X-trail 2.2 dCi, Cash Price £3495, Deposit 300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

FINANCE AVAILABLE • PART EXCHANGE WARRANTIES AVAILABLE • WE BUY CARS 09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3 dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Mauve, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £5995 / £32 Per Week

13/13 Peugeot 107 1.0 Allure 14k, Black, *ZERO ROAD TAX* Alloys, Air Con, CD with Aux, E/Windows £5495 / £28 Per Week

10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDi Sport 60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, F/Windows £5495 / £28 Per Week

08/08 Renault Kangoo I.6 Expression
Automatic, ONLY 20k MILES, Blue, E/Windows, CD, Spacious MPV

04/54 Mercedes C180K Avantgarde SE 4dr Automatic, 76k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows :3995 / £23 Per Wee 08/08 Ford Mondeo 2.0TDCi Diesel Edge

5dr [140] Automatic, 118k, Blue, Air Con, CD, E/Windows 3695 / £20 Per Week

> 08/08 Ford Focus Zetec 1.6 TDi Diesel 3 dr, *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* 99k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, E/Windows, CD £3695 / £20 Per Week

07/07 Citroen Xsara Picasso VTX 1.6 HDI Diesel 59k, Beige, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Panoramic Sunroof 3695 / £20

> 09/59 Citroen C3 I.I First 43k, Black, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Ideal 1st Car

£2995 / £16 Per Week

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DRIVETIME



Nissan is celebrating 20 years of the 'curry hook'

Nissan's advanced driver assistance systems are available on many of its models, including the award-winning Qashqai crossover.

Development of these hi-tech solu-

tions is constantly evolving to improve the ownership experience, but Nissan engineers never forget that a simple approach can be just as effective. This month marks 20 years since the debut of one of its most iconic features - the much-loved 'curry hook'

The dashboard hook first appeared on the Almera compact family hatchback in March 1996, as a way of keeping hand bags or shopping bags upright. It was guickly dubbed the 'curry hook' by media who recognised it was the perfect way to stop takeaway food from spilling into the car's foot well

Today, it remains a feature of the brand's crossovers such as the Qashqai and X-Trail. All that's changed is the location of the hook; it has moved from the dashboard to the boot. It's just one of many simple solutions

which Nissan has incorporated into its cars to make life easier for the driver. Another is the 'Karakuri' boot board – also known as the Flexi-Board – which is available on the Qashqai, Juke and Note. It allows owners to divide the cargo space according to their needs, and can be arranged in various configurations to support and protect items in transit. When not in use, it cleverly stores out of the way in the boot floor.

Nissan's engineers have put just as much thought into the latest Navara pick-up. For example, it features a 12volt power socket in the dashboard's upper storage tray - ideal for customers who have their own portable satnav device to stick to the windscreen. It means no potentially hazardous trail driving environment tidy and unob-structed. Cleverly, for customers who choose a Navara with an integrated sat-nav, the socket isn't there.

Such smart thinking isn't a new ele ment of the Nissan 'customer-first' philosophy. In September 1986, when the first Nissan Bluebird rolled off the new production line in Sunderland, UK, it had two analogue trip meters built into the instrument cluster behind the steering wheel.

Why? So business users could eas ily separate and log their professional and private mileage. A unique feature at the time, it is now standard on the digital read-outs of almost every volume car brand.

Many innovations such as these began life in the minds of the engineering experts at Nissan's European Techni-



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New lease of life for updated **SEAT Ibiza**

By John Griffiths

It's a sign of the times that SEAT has tagged one of its smallest (in terms of capacity) engines with its sporty 'FR' model designation.

But this isn't any old three cylinder, 999cc petrol

unit - it's one of a new generation of small but highly efficient engines where, on demand, turbo charging makes up for the lack of cubic centimetres but gives one litre economy when you're cruising or crawling. At first sight it doesn't seem that much has changed – the

sculpted side panels in particular make it instantly recognisable as a descendant of one of the most popular small cars on our roads. But look more closely and you see the bonnet and boot lines have been cleaned up, and you might notice the new range of colours too.

But it's under the skin where SEAT has spent its develop-ment money, with more efficient engines and a significant – and long awaited – upgrade to the interior which will help the Ibiza compete with Johnny-come-lately rivals

The test model was a 1.0 litre Eco TSi with 110Ps on tag - pretty effective in a small car but also aided by a whole 200Nm of torque thanks to the turbo, so power is delivered more evenly and from lower revs.

It was coupled to the Audi VW Group's excellent DSG automatic gearbox, with seven electronically controlled ratios to ensure you're always in the most efficient ratio for acceleration or economy, depending on your right foot. You can, of course, also change gear manually using the gearstick sequentially or via the up/down paddles behind the steering wheel. For me that's useful to limit speed on a steep de scent, or you take full control on a twisty stretch of road, but for the most part the auto system is both rapid and responsive enough for you to leave it doing its job.

That addition of DSG partly explains the £16,140 price tag

for this test model, but worth it if you're an auto fan or fed up with pumping your clutch foot up and down in traffic. And it comes without the power and economy drawbacks of older auto transmissions.

But FR also denotes of the highest, and the sportiest,

trim levels so it also comes with extra standard equipment including the distinctive twin exhausts, sports front seats, unique 16-inch alloys with low profile tyres, sports suspension, automatic headlights and wipers, cruise control and, of course, a sports style flat-bottomed steering wheel.

There are three other FR engine options, two 1.4 turbo diesels with 90 and 105PS respectively, and the flagship 1.4 TSI with 150PS on tap

Lively

Compared to normally aspirated, and in many cases smaller one litre cars, the FR's turbo makes it feel lively from the moment you set off, and according to official figures 60mph comes up in an impressive 9.3 seconds.

Line up for an overtake and the DSG system rapidly responds by changing down one or two gears to get you quickly and safely past. Unless you're pressing on, and with the availability of that higher, seventh gear, the engine is barely audible and you're more likely to notice some back-

ground noise from the wide, low profile tyres.

According to official laboratory tests, the 1.0 FR is capable of averaging 64.2mpg – and a low, tax-saving 102g/km of CO2 – but in real world driving and traffic conditions the test car returned a still creditable 50mpg.

The sports suspension doesn't result in a harsh ride, but what it does very well is to sharpen up the Ibiza's handling. It's quick to turn in and holds its line even through bumpy corners which help to make it a fun and rewarding car to drive. The brakes are smooth and powerful too.

Interior and load space of just short of 300 litres haven't changed, but the Ibiza is quite capable of accommodating four in comfort, with the five doors of the test model making access to the rear easier than in three-door versions.

It's in the interior where the major changes have taken place. It feels much higher quality, with switchgear from Ibia's big brother, the Leon, and a centre colour touchscreen controlling a range of functions. There's also a driver information display between the two principal instruments.

The test car was also kitted out with a number of extras including a first class upgraded sound system £155), climate control (as opposed to standard aircon) at £320 and rear parking sensors at £220. For £725 the car was also show-casing one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive communications, entertainment and media set-ups available in any small car, all controlled via a central touch screen.

Features include a three-dimensional navigation system with voice control, Bluetooth, MP3 and CD player, SEAT's 'Full Link' system consisting of Mirrorlink, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, capable of integrating with smart phone functions. As with its efficient engines and sharper styling, this technological wizardry shows the competent little Ibiza has undergone more than a facelift. It's given the car a new lease of life to broaden its appeal and tackle the competition





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Single Men

YOUNG at heart male, smart, looks younger than age, likes socalising, looking for socalising, looking for companionship & friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5412069**

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DOMINANT Goddess sought by solution to the state of the st

4673363

SMOKIN' rock geezer, 53, into gigging & camping WLTM rock chick 46-58ish, into similar, to share experiences, GSOH essential! Text only Mailbox: 5414037 5414037

5414037

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

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MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481

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MATURE 23 year old. Career minded. Workaholic. Looking for a chat maybe more? Age does atter. Text only Mailbox not matte **5423510**

NEIL 52, solvent, average build, GSOH seeks a caring romantic female for fun nights in and out, and lots of cuddles & kisses. Text only Mailbox: 5418572 PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks

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No: 417601

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420873

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MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

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Police team Eliott Bastable, Pete Gibbons, Carl Southwick, Gavin Sloan, Kev Franklin, and Maria

Still close - Maria with her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan

Cue Ronnie's cousin who wants to Rocket ahead

AS one member of the family continues to make the news, Maria Catalano is hoping she will be a headline act in April.

The 33-year-old from Netherton will be striv-ing to win her first world snooker championship after finishing runner-up on five occasions – just a couple of weeks before her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan bids for his sixth crown at the

ne O'Sullivan bids for his sixth crown at the famous Crucible venue in Sheffield.

Catalano's shot at glory will take place in the more low-key surroundings of the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds as the women's game fights to break down the barriers of a male-dominated sport.

Encourage

But the current world No. 4 is hoping that the days where the ladies' efforts are overlooked will soon be a thing of the past. The World Ladies Billiards and Snooker Limited (WLBS) was formed last year to encourage participation from grassroots level and raise the profile of the women's game, joining forces with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

ciation.

Dudley's world No. 1 – and Catalano's close friend

Reanne Evans caused a stir last year when she
pushed former world champion Ken Doherty in a 10-8
loss in the qualifying event for last year's world championships. And Hong Kong's Ng On Yee will be in the
qualifying tournament this time around.

"The WLBS has been formed and the World Profes-

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The difference in prize money is crazy.'

sional Billiards and Snooker Association have taken us under their wing," said Catalano, who plays on the local circuit for West Midlands Police in the Stour-bridge League and Woodfield in the West Midlands

bridge League and Troband League.

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The women's game needs more exposure and they seem to have big plans. The difference in prize money is crazy. For our world championships it was £1,500 for the winner last year – the men's was

For the time being Catalano has to be content with chasing the meagre offerings in tournaments around the country while working for the family business, Antonio's Ice Cream.

Antonio's Ice Cream.

"I have never been able to take the game full-time because I have never had a sponsor," she added.

Her love of the game is obvious. "I was about five

or six and I remember having a snooker table cake for my birthday," she laughed.

"Obviously my family were interested in the sport with Ronnie playing. I saw him doing well and earning a few quid and thought I want to try that. We all used to watch it on the TV and I was a big Steve Davis fan."

While her friends were out and about, Catalano was chalking up the hours on the green baize. "I started to play at Brierley Hill Snooker Club and that was it Lived decovering and with I fell in leave with

started to play at Brierley Hill Snooker Club and that was it. I played every single night. I fell in love with it straight away."

Even success on the American pool circuit failed to tempt her away. "I won the Florida State Championships, which is a big event, and qualified for the US Open. But pool is not for me."

And Catalano, who beat her idol Davis in an exhibition match last year and teamed up with Evans to defeat Shaun Murphy and Mark Selby in a promotional event last month, has peuer felt cut of place among event last month, has peuer felt cut of place among.

event last month, has never felt out of place among male team-mates and opponents. A few tips from O'Sullivan helped along the way and the pair are still in regular contact. "He is just very special. I would say he is the best

ever. I know he causes a bit of controversy now and again, but he is a genius."

Catalano will be cheering O'Sullivan on at the Crucible as usual, but for now is focused on her own shot

at world glory after missing last year

"The ambition is still there and I am going to win it one day, definitely."



port

Ronnie's cousin is on cue to rocket ahead

Page 39



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Heathens in perfect start to the season

CRADLEY kicked off their season in per-ect fashion with a 51-39 win over Belle Vue on their Monmore Green return. Star duo Max Clegg and Ashley Morris

Star duo Max Clegg and Ashley Morris both went unbeaten as the Heathens disposed of the National League newcomers to claim all three points.

Skipper Clegg saw off former teammate Matt Williamson to win the opening race of the night – setting the tone for a powerful performance as the home side accounted for 12 race winners to come out on ton.

side accounted for 12 race winners to come out on top.

The two sides traded heat advantages in the early stages, but when Morrispicked off the exciting Daniel Bewley to win heat four it gave them some breathing space. Two more classy wins for the heat-leader pair kept the Heathens ahead at halfway before debutants James Purchase and Ben Basford made a breakthrough with a crucial 5-1 in heat eight.

eight.
Purchase dusted himself down from a

eight.
Purchase dusted himself down from a nasty fall after he was wiped out by the enthusiastic Bewley in the original staging to claim a composed race win in the re-run – his first since returning to the sport after a decade-long absence.

The Heathens looked set to strike another devastating 5-1 in the next race as middle order duo Luke Chessell and Jack Kingston stormed from the tapes to hit he front. However, Kingston picked up some unexpected grip entering the final lap and was sent flying awkwardly into the fence on the back straight.

Cradley nonetheless came on strong in the closing stages, with Morris and Clegg striking timely 5-1s in heats 13 and 15 to wrap up victory and prevent the Colts from taking a consolation point.

CRADLEY Max Clegg 15. Ashey Morris 13-2, Luke Chessell 11, Ben Basford 5-1, James Purchase 5, Jack Kingston I, Bradley Andrews 1.

BELLE VUE: Daniel Bewley 11+1, Rob Shuttleworth 8-1, Matt Williamson 8, Lee Payne 4, Andy Mellish 3+2, David Holt 2.

Runners are not Farah way from Olympic champ

THE blue hoops rubbed shoulders with the red white and blue as DK Running Club athletes lined up on the start line with a Great Britain team featuring dou-ble Olympic champion Mo Farah in the Cardiff Half Marathon.

Cardiff Half Marathon.
The line-up also boasted a World Cross
Country Champion, Commonwealth
Games Marathon Gold medallist and
other big names. With Farah in third
place, runners from DK were not far
back, albeit about half an hour behind, recording some quick times.

Previously as the weather started to

warm up a little so did the action. Simon Blizzard came away with a PB of 1.24.13, taking seventh place over a flat course in the Heyford Park Half Marathon.

the Heyford Park Half Marathon. Five club runners finished the Stafford Half Marathon in around 85 minutes and eight came home in the benchmark of around an hour and a half. In the Palace Half Marathon at Hamp-

ton Court, Andy Morrison recorded a PB despite running five miles beforehand in preparation for the London Marathon and there were a host of PBs in the Ashby 20.

Glover's title bid slashed by rival



Wood in control against Tipton's Glover, left

TIPTON'S Lee Glover faces an uncertain future after his third crack at a bonafide belt ended in less than two rounds. Glover was counted out of his crack at the Midlands featherweight title on Saturday night on the end of some devastating punches from Leigh Wood.

They clashed on the under-card of Kell Brook's successful defence of the IBF world welterweight title against Kevin Bizier at the Sheffield Arena.

The belt was vacated by Bobby Jenkinson, after he won it by outpointing Paul Holt at Wolverhampton Civic Hall last year. 'The Tipton Slasher' never got to grips with his rival from

Gedling in Nottinghamshire. A huge rebuilding

process will now be required for the 28-year-old, who will need a significant period to regroup for a potential fourth title shot.

Priory Park fighter James Mongan is one of five fighters added to the West Midlands contingent heading to finals weekend in the England Junior Champinghips this weekend

Championships. this weekend.

Another will be Paige Goodyear, the double national champion, from Brooklands home gym

Flying the flag for Black Country club

THE Black Country Triathletes Aquathlon on March 12 at Wombourne Leisure Centre began with a 400m swim then a 5k run around the playing fields and along the railway walk.

Of the 57 adults, first home for the men was Nigel Gaskin in 23:37, second Jack Peasgood in 24:14 followed by BCT's own Jacob Anson in 24:45. The ladies' winner was Lauren Evans, also flying the flag for BCT, in 28:07 with Jacqui Phillips from TRIKS in 28:21 and Annabelle Davis in third in 29:46.

Some 140 children, aged from sev-

Annaeue Davis in third in 29:40.

Some 140 children, aged from seven-to-16, entered the juniors, racing distances depending on their age. The BCT junior section took a number of the top three places with Reece Ashfield first in the boys youth race – with Oliver Evans in third and Holly Lewis third in the circles youth roun.

in third and Holly Lewis third in the girls youth group.
Joel Humpage and Lydia Silk took second place in the boys and girls Tristar 3 age group. Noah Sandland was second in the boys Tristar 2 category.
Eight Black Country Triathletes travelled further afield to Worksop for the Clumber Park Duathlon, competing in both sprint and standard distance races and with the opportunity to qualify for the European and World Duathlon Championships.

for the European and World Duathion Championships.

In the sprint, 5k run, 20k bike and 2.5k run, Lauren Evans finished first in the female 20-24 age group. Best friends Amelia Silk and Gemma Evans had a very close race in the 15-19 age group with Amelia in fourth and Gemma fifth.

with Amelia in fourth and Gemma fith. Reece Ashfield and Oliver Evans (age 15-19) finished ninth and 14th respectively in their age group, Scott Palmer came 11th in the 35-39 category and Ed Bolland came ninth in the 45-49's.

Rob Kennard competed in the standard distance race, 10k run, 40k bike, 5k run, coming home 11th in his age group (M50-54) with a time of 2:12:21.

Stars of past line up for Pears skipper

CRICKETING stars of the past will return to New Road for a match in aid of Worcestershire captain Daryl Mitchell's Benefit Season

The 30-over game takes place at 2pm on Sunday September 4 as a Pears Legends XI takes on local rivals the Bears. The Pears team includes a number wellknown former county players including Ben Smith, Kabir Ali, Richard Stemp Vikram Solanki, Martin Weston, Gareth

Vikram Solanki, Martin Weston, Gareth Andrew and Hartley Alleyne. The Bears will be captained by Paul Smith. Side attractions include stalls, food, music and rides. For more details, call Mark Ashbourne on 07506 747619.

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LTZ CLAI RBY SPOILS

A BUMPER Bank Holiday attendance of 2,107 saw Halesowen put a huge dent in rival

Stourbridge's play-off hopes.
In a lively and tense start, Aaron Griffiths's shot was beaten away by Stourbridge goalkeeper Matthew Gould and Halesowen cleared from Karl Hawley in the 10th minute after Dan Scarr headed on headed on.

Karl Hawley in the 10th minute after Dan Scarr headed on.

The game truly burst into life just before the interval when home substitute Dan Sweeney fired the Yeltz into a 38th minute leada.

The Glassboys squandered a glorious chance to level from the penalty spot just three minutes later after Ashley Parsons-Smith fouled Hawley on the turn, but Hawley ballooned his spotkick over the bar. Further Stourbridge chances to equalise went begging before the interval as Scarr's header was saved on line by Dan Platt and the rebound was scrambled clear.

In first half injury time, Hawley's cross along goal then escaped Matt Dodd at the far post Stourbridge failed to make much impression on the solid home defence in the second half with Hawley denied after an hour with his back to goal just one yard out before Sean Geddes dragged a long shot wide.

Rebound

Rebound

The Yeltz then doubled their lead in the 80th minute after Danny Bragoli's shot was well saved by Gould but substitute Maradonna – Dumitru Maradonna Chiriac – marked his home debut by following up to score from the rebound.

Stourbridge continued to be wasteful in the final minutes with Justin Richards nodding over from a yard out and it was Chiriac who controlled to fire just past the visiting post after 89 minutes for the triumphant hosts.

Though this has been another fine season at Stourbridge, there is also no denying failure to reach the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-offs would be cause for great disappointment.

Stourbridge had boosted their play-off hopes two days previously with a 3-0 home win over Buxton, all the goals coming in the last half an hour from Justin Richards, Karl Hawley and Dan Scarr. Yeltz returned from the long trip to Dar-Scarr. Yeltz returned from the long trip to Darlington 1883 with a 2-1 defeat. Michael Turner had given Yeltz the lead.

Palmer aims to power home



Scott Palmer is flying the flag for Britain in the European Sprint Duathlon Championships

A DUDLEY electrician is racing off to represent Great Britain in the European Sprint Duathlon Championships in Germany next

Scott Palmer, who runs Electrix Installations

Scott Palmer, who runs Electrix Installations and Maintenance, has qualified for the international competition for the first time and is hoping to finish in the top 20 – just two years after he first started training for the discipline. The former High Arcal pupil will do battle in the 35-39 age group on April 16 and 17, taking on competitors from across Europe on the daunting course which features a 5km run, 20km bike ride, and then a 2.5km run to finish. "I've always been involved in sport, but

never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be representing my country at the age of 35," saic Palmer, who has been battling a back injury.

Palmer, who has been battling a back injury.

"I've had to fit my training programme in with running a small business and looking after my two young girls.

"On average, I do nine hours training per week which takes in two running sessions and four outings on the bike. There's a game plan in place and I'm hoping to get a personal best by making the most of my time on the bike the discipline I feel I'm most strong in.

"I'm going to give it everything and hopefully make everyone at home proud. I'd be pleased with finishing in the top 20."



Dudley

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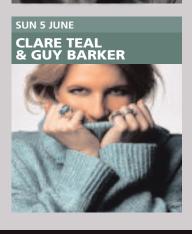
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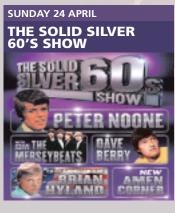
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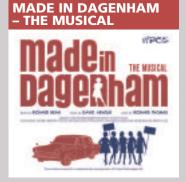




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